

Greetings ND ASPIRE Members,

I wanted to pass along this good news regarding HB 1090, the childcare assistance bill that we have been following. It has now passed both houses with an amendment that will allow the Department of Human Services to extend childcare assistance to low-income students pursuing one, two, and four-year certificates and degrees "pending availability of funds". I'm sure that once the Legislature adjourns the Department of Human Services will have some more information on the implications this will have for TRIO students struggling to balance school and family.

Another item of information regarding SB 2003. Yesterday the media reported that the House members of the SB 2003 conference committee had proposed a \$14 Million dollar amount for need-based aid. Senate conferees are holding out for \$20 million plus. The extra amount would be a terrific help to our TRIO students.

Have a great weekend!