



April 1, 2025

In 2023, the Minnesota State Legislature created the North Star Promise program, an investment in our future workforce and acknowledgment that any student of academic merit, regardless of family income, is an asset to our state. We do not support efforts to shrink the scope of this important program ([HF2634](#)), nor do we believe that residency requirements will enhance efficacy or efficiency ([HF2241](#)).

The work requirements proposed in HF2634 would undo the progress made in the last year by restricting NorthStar Promise Scholarships to degrees that lead to “in-demand occupations.” According to DEED, the top 10 in-demand careers in Minnesota are, in-order: Personal health care aide, Salesperson, Registered Nurse, Cashier, Nursing Assistant, Truck Driver, Supervisor of Retail Sales, Stocker and Order Fillers, Janitor, and Teaching Assistant. Of those, only Nursing requires a degree at all and has the highest median wage at just over \$100,000. Of the other careers, only three have a median income above \$40,000.

For NorthStar Promise recipients, a college education is primarily a tool of economic mobility. One such student who works in Students United’s Fellowship program grew up on a farm in western Minnesota and received the first round of Northstar Promise Scholarship last year. She chose marketing and public relations because of their high return on investment. HF2634 would punish students like her who made strategic financial decisions about their degree.

While we recognize the strategic benefits of requiring in-state residency, HF2241 creates a problem where there is none. Eighty percent of MinnState students already stay in Minnesota post-graduation – it is part of what makes MinnState such a potent engine of Minnesota’s economy. Furthermore, heaping unnecessary paperwork and bureaucracy on an already overburdened Office of Higher Education creates a compliance system ripe for fraud and abuse. The Office of Higher Education should be in the business of opening doors, not limiting individual choice.

While we commend the legislature’s creativity, these proposals do not reflect the values of our student members. If lawmakers are truly interested in getting students to stay in the state post-graduation or attract students to in-demand careers, we advise strategic investment in existing programs at our two and four-year institutions.

We urge you to oppose HF2634 and HF2241.

Sincerely,

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