



March 11, 2021

The Honorable Senator Molly Baumgardner, Chair, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for House Bill No. 2070 on behalf of Baker University. Under current state law, public universities and colleges are able to pass through credit card fees to those that opt to pay their student bills by credit card as a convenience fee. Currently, private universities are not afforded the same opportunity and therefore must absorb the expense as part of their operating expenses.

More and more of our students and their families are electing to pay their student account balances with credit cards due to the convenience of paying online. By not being able to pass along the fee to those individuals, Baker is incurring more than \$200,000 in fees annually by the credit card companies.

We are respectfully requesting we be provided the same authority as public universities to pass the credit card fees through to our students and their families should they opt to pay their bill by credit card. We do allow students to pay their bills with check or cash and do not charge a processing fee. We do not intend to "make money" on this fee but instead simply pass the fee along to those that use credit cards.

With the pandemic hitting all of higher education extremely hard, we have struggled with declining enrollment and revenue. We are making budget reductions without compromising academic excellence and student experience. These types of changes would greatly assist us as we face unprecedented budgetary and financial limitations.

If you have any questions, we will be in attendance at the hearing the Senate Education Committee to demonstrate our support.

Sincerely,

Shelley Kneuvean
Vice President, Finance & Administration
Baker University