

Written testimony from Ann Pollert

House Education Committee @9:00 February 2, 2021

Re: HB 1478

Chairman Owens and Committee Members

My name is Ann Pollert and I am the Director of Workforce Development for General Equipment & Supplies, Inc. I am here to testify in support of HB 1478.

General Equipment & Supplies has locations in Williston, Minot, Bismarck and Fargo, ND and my job is to recruit young people interested in careers in our industry and with General Equipment. Our company has supported numerous students through our tuition reimbursement program at NDSCS and we currently have 16 first and second year students enrolled at NDSCS who upon graduation will be full time employees of General Equipment.

We view HB 1478 as a potential tool that will help us to connect with students who are perhaps interested in a technical career but just don't know enough about it. Through a program offered because of HB 1478 they can exploring some of these technical or skilled careers while in High School and in doing so receive educational credits.

HB1478 is just another pathway for students to learn about high demand careers that not only exist in ND but perhaps right in their own hometown. Giving these students the option to seek high demand and exciting career and stay right here in ND after graduation. As you know, there is high demand for many careers in ND and to solve this concerning issue, we need to be innovative. HB 1478 is innovative.

The ND Legislature passed a bill last session that created ND Career Builder. We see HB 1478 dovetailing with ND Career Builder where the connecting of potential students seeking potential employers to sponsor them through a technical educational degree can take place.

There is no question that the hardest part of my job is finding and connecting with individuals interested in technical careers. HB 1478 will be a resource to help solve that problem and introduce our youth to the real world right here in ND awaiting them after graduation from High School.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.