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Good morning Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education committee, my name is Lyle Krueger. I am the assistant director of the Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center (CRACTC), the virtual-blended learning CTE center based out of Bismarck. I am providing written testimony in support of HB1430.

As you know, there are many strong Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs throughout our great State of North Dakota, both brick & mortar centers, as well as virtual hybrid centers such as the one I oversee, the Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center (CRACTC) based out of Bismarck. CRACTC is an approved CTE center per the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education, helping students qualify for the State CTE scholarship. Currently CRACTC is serving 700 students within mostly central/western North Dakota, both public and private school students, at 46 different high schools with approximately 923 overall CTE course enrollments (a single student can take more than one course). The number of students, as well as our course offerings, has increased each year as students are more interested in gaining career-oriented coursework and hands-on learning experiences and skills while still in high school. For most courses, we use a virtual hybrid format where students utilize an online learning management system (LMS) such as Moodle, to receive the curricular content and communicate with their teachers/students (along with other communication tools). They then meet with the instructor and other students at a centralized location to perform hands-on application of the learning associated with the online curriculum or to participate in career exploration learning opportunities with local or regional industry-related partners.

As the need for coursework and programming for skilled jobs, workforce, and parallel learning experiences for High School, College, and Adult Education students continues to grow, the need for growth and expansion of CTE programming is ever more necessary. Many times these skilled careers do not require a student to complete a 4yr degree program. HB1430 would allow students that qualify for either the ND Academic or CTE Scholarship the ability to use up to \$1,500 a semester if enrolled at a 2-year state institution or tribal program (vs. the current restriction of \$750 per semester) that they've **earned** through approved CTE programming at their local schools or centers such as ours! The current distribution of \$750 per semester gives the impression that every student should be pursuing a 4-year degree, or the work they've done is not worthy of the full scholarship award, which is an outdated approach.

I believe there is some important points to consider within the fiscal note including:

* HB1430 **does not change** the eligibility requirements of either the ND Academic or CTE Scholarship (i.e. the same expectations for ACT, GPA, etc. exist), so the program would not see an influx of high school seniors qualifying

* HB1430 **does not increase** the amount of scholarship dollars a student may receive (still a maximum cap of \$6,000)

* The ND Academic & CTE Scholarship is advertised to students meeting the requirements as a \$6,000 promise of state funds to help them with their post-secondary costs if enrolled in a state institution. HB1430 **allows** the

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qualifying students the ability to fully utilize the \$6,000 promised to them, even if they pursue less than a 4-year degree.

* Therefore, the fiscal note of HB1430 is not due to increasing the number of students qualifying, nor increasing the amount each student is able to use, but rather the difference between the student's that qualify for the scholarship, and the amount left on the table by each student that completes their post-secondary degree/training in less than 4-years.

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education committee, thank you for your time and consideration of my written testimony and I would respectfully ask for your support of HB1430.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or would like to discuss things further.

Sincerely,

Lyle P Krueger

Lyle P. Krueger
Assistant Director
Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center