



Letter of Support – SB 2147

Monday, March 10, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2147.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Our members continue to express concerns centered around the availability of high-quality, skilled workers. While the workforce gap is narrowing across the United States, North Dakota continues to face some of the most severe workforce challenges. According to the U.S. Chamber, North Dakota has only about 30 available workers for every 100 open jobs, significantly more critical than the national average of 83 available workers per 100 jobs. This highlights the urgent need for innovative strategies to attract, retain, develop, and align workers with in-demand jobs.

To address this challenge, we support continued investment in the Skilled Workforce Student Loan Repayment Program. This program enhances regional competitiveness by incentivizing qualified individuals to stay in the state, strengthening communities, supporting families, and driving economic growth. This investment would bolster building an aligned workforce pipeline through attracting, developing, and retaining skilled workers. For these reasons, we urge the committee to give this bill a DO PASS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce