



**Senate Workforce Development
HB1498**

March 20, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee. My name is Wayde Sick, and I serve as the State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am testifying today in support of HB1498.

HB1498 originally as written allowed a school board to provide a signing bonus for new teachers.

We were able to amend HB1498 during the House Education Hearing to include an Area Career and Technology Board to also have this authority. This amendment would allow area career and technology centers the ability to also provide a first-year signing bonus for its new hires. Career and Technical Educations teachers are incredibly difficult to recruit, as many of them transition from industry to enter the teaching profession. This often means reduction in pay and additional coursework, to attain a teaching license.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for any questions.

Thank you.