

**House Education
SB2272**

March 17, 2021

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support of SB2272.

SB2272 or the Career Builders bill, will continue and improve upon a program that was created during the 2019 Legislative Session. This program provided funding for scholarships and student loan repayment for students and graduates that pursued high wage, high skill, in-demand occupations and remain employed in the state. This program, as you know, also required a one-to-one private sector match, ensuring that business and industry was partnering with the State to meet our workforce challenges. SB2272 broadens the eligibility of the Career Builders program to students that attend the State's various Postsecondary Career Schools. Examples of Postsecondary Career Schools in the state include Lynnes Welding and Emerging Digital Academy. North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15-20.4 gives the State Board for Career and Technical Education the authority to approve the operation of private Postsecondary Career Schools. Allowing the Career Builders scholarship and student loan repayment program to be available to training programs such as these would provide financial support for students who choose to take a different training path, enter the workforce, stay in the state and possibly be student loan debt free.

This concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.