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Testimony of Kyle Martin
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In Support of HB 1478
March 9, 2021

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Kyle Martin, executive director of the Technology Council of North Dakota (TechND). I am appearing today to voice support of HB 1478.

TechND, formerly known as the Information Technology Council of North Dakota (ITCND), was created in 2000 by North Dakota business, government and education leaders who recognized the need to strengthen the state's information technology infrastructure and reposition the state as a national leader in IT. The organization has since expanded its focus to include members from the technology industry as a whole. TechND has over 60 member organizations, with representatives from both the public and private sector.

TechND supports after school programs that encourage career exploration in the fields of information technology and computer science. After school programs including Cybersecurity Camps, STEM programs at Gateway to Science, Girls Who Code, You Code Girl, and many others encourage students to follow their curiosities, explore together and learn new skills that could one day shape their future careers. SB 1478 will incentivize more students to participate in educational after school programs by providing them with school credit for doing so.

North Dakota's technology subsector has increased by more than 17 percent over the last decade and projects more than 7,500 new and replacement technology positions will be needed in North Dakota over the next decade. After school programs play an important role in

filling these careers by encouraging career exploration in computer sciences and information technology.

TechND asks the Senate Education Committee recommend a do-pass on HB 1478.