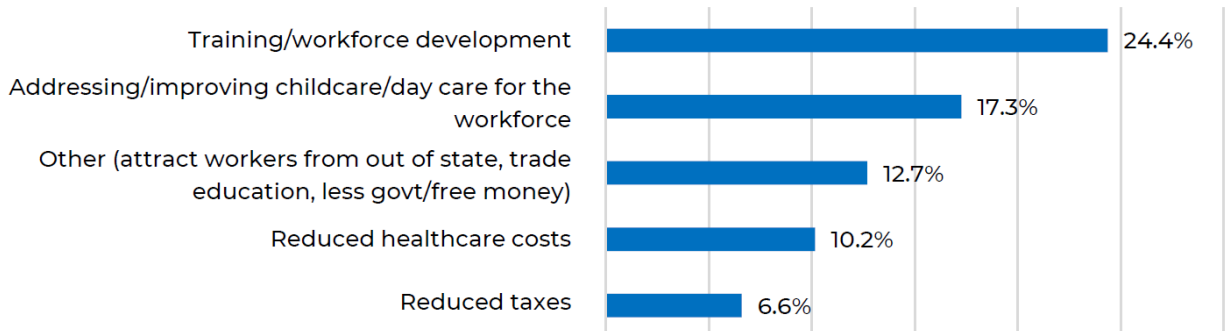


Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota’s largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of Senate Bill 2012 as it relates to childcare.

Recently, GNDC partnered with the NDSU Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth to complete a survey about the business climate in North Dakota. The survey found that 62% of respondents felt the number one factor holding businesses back is difficulty attracting and retaining qualified workers. Additionally, when respondents were asked what change in North Dakota would have the greatest positive impact on their organization’s growth or performance, the second most common response was to improve childcare for the workforce.

What change in North Dakota would have the greatest positive impact on your organization's growth or performance?



The results of the survey were reflected in the discussions held by our members in our policy position development process. Lack of childcare is negatively impacting businesses. As a result, one of our policy positions is to encourage solutions that enhance childcare availability and out of school time programming that do not increase costs to businesses. We are also supportive of the services offered in vocational rehabilitation.

We hope that you will support funding and solutions aimed at addressing workforce challenges as it relates to childcare and vocational rehabilitation in SB 2012.