

Representative Mike Lefor

## HB 1178 Testimony

Good morning chair Heinert, vice chair Schreiber-Beck and members of the House education committee, for the record, my name is Mike Lefor and I represent District 37 Dickinson in the House. I bring HB 1178 to you for your consideration.

As we all know, career and tech academies are providing more educational opportunities for our young people and adults as well. There are many strategies at play when offering these opportunities. Recently, CTE's have been appearing in all regions of our state. It takes many components to be successful.

These academies are sometimes the result of collaboration of many different sectors within a community or region. This includes public and private education, universities, the private sector, community and business leaders and members of our local economic development group.

For example, in Dickinson, a task force created to start a CTE to serve southwestern North Dakota, included representatives from Dickinson State University, Trinity Catholic Schools, Dickinson Public Schools and more in advancing the new center.

In the North Dakota century code, it currently provides for these facilities to have a board of directors. At the present time, only public schools have representation on these boards. This was a great model to have previously, however, the game has changed.

With so many different groups coming together, it presents an opportunity to not only involve them from a talent and treasure prospective, but overall governance as well. If you would go to page one starting on line 19, this bill provides for appointment of up to three community members one each from a university, a private or parochial school or a private sector entity.

It states the board "may" appoint; this leaves the decision with local boards. Additionally, the term of these community members would be for a term of three years. Finally, community member vacancies may be filled by the center board.

According to the state department of career and technical education, more than \$80 million has been donated to our career and tech academies in the past several years. This included cash, in-kind and property donations. Many in the private sector are wanting to provide scholarships in our area providing a strong partnership with the CTE.

I believe this gives local CTE boards the ability to move forward with additional expertise. I ask the community to give HB 1178 a do pass recommendation and I would be happy to answer any questions.