

Committee on Education Introduction and Support of

HB1241 WORKFORCE INNOVATION PROGRAM

January 24, 2023, 9:30am

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Committee on Education:

For the record I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative. I am here to introduce House Bill 1241, a bill to provide funds to the institutions of higher learning for innovative workforce program development and the enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.

Previously, a similar program existed under the department of commerce so this is not a new idea but expanded. The bill includes:

- What the award dollars can be utilized for is listed in lines 11-14 on page 1.
- That the awards must be reviewed and approved by the state board of higher education and that the board is responsible to submit a detailed annual report to legislative management.
- The appropriation of \$24 million for the workforce innovation program, and that the state board of higher education may use up to \$200,000 for program administration. At institutions of higher learning, program development is a two-year venture with a return on the investment beginning when students enroll. Thus, funds are necessary to design, develop, and staff the programs.

NDUS system personnel were helpful in assisting with the scripting of this bill and representatives of the system office will be able provided additional information.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed legislation.