



**House Education
SB2269**

March 14, 2023

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support for SB2269.

As you may be aware, in the 2019 Legislative Assembly, the Center for Distance Education (NDCDE) was moved from the North Dakota Information Technology Department (NDIT) to the Department of Career and Technical Education. It was moved from NDIT for a number of reasons, but mostly for the following:

- 1) It needed to be moved to an agency whose focus is education. Education is not the primary focus of NDIT.
- 2) NDCTE as an approved school, needed to have a Governance Board. The State Board for Career and Technical Education served that role.
- 3) There was a perceived duplication of efforts between NDCDE and virtual Career and Technical Education provided by our local Career and Technology Centers.

I believe we have made positive steps to address duplication. First, after careful study, duplication is not as concerning as first perceived. Secondly, because of this review and under Dr. Martin's leadership, a deep review of the CTE coursework offered by NDCDE is underway. This will only improve on the good work NDCDE is doing, eliminate any unnecessary duplication, and provide for future partnerships with local CTE Centers.

Although, it is unfortunate to see the potential of the phenomenal employees at NDCDE move to another agency, I am confident if SB2269 would pass, I would gain a valuable partner at NDCDE. The mission of NDCDE does more closely align with the mission of Department of Public Instruction, as they continue to expand their reach and offerings throughout the entire K-12 community. Their increased emphasis on elementary education and core curriculum and the potential decrease in programming in CTE coursework due to the State's investment in more access to CTE through the CTE Capital Projects Program makes now the right time to discuss a transition of NDCDE to the Department of Public Instruction.

This concludes my testimony and I am happy to stand for questions.