



March 14, 2023

Senate Appropriations Human Resources Division:

RE: Support for HB1019 – Career and Technical Education

Dear Chairman Dever and members of the committee:

My name is Dale Hoerauf. I am the Director of Career and Technical Education for Bismarck Public Schools and Director of the Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center. I am reaching out to you in support of HB1019.

Bismarck Public Schools built the Career Academy 12 years ago, and we started with an enrollment of 400 students in 2010. Currently we have an enrollment of 1600 9-12th grade students. Students are able to choose from 38 Career and Technical courses, leading to various career pathways. At the Bismarck Public School Career Academy, we are out of space and our expansion plans are to build Career Academy 2.0. Unfortunately, our plans have stalled and we have missed the construction window to build our Career Academy 2.0 dream because of funds that have not been received. As you can understand, construction costs continue to escalate and the additional dollars are needed to cover what was our plan two years ago.

HB1019 provides needed funding right during a time when there is a demand for skilled workforce in North Dakota and the nation. The CTE funding is needed to help with the expansion of programs. Although we have 38 CTE course offerings, the plan is to add a two-year program for high school students in HVAC, plumbing, and electrical. This bill would provide funds to continue with our plans of Career Academy 2.0 for Bismarck Public Schools.

Support for HB 1019 is support for North Dakota's CTE growth and provides the ability to expand access to CTE programs for students across the state. I ask the funding amendments in HB1019 be restored to the levels recommended by Director Wayde Sick.

Sincerely,

Dale Hoerauf

Director Bismarck Public Schools Career and Technical Education