



Michael Hanson, Director
Michael.Hanson@k12.nd.us

1540 School Road
Grafton, ND 58237-1715

Phone: (701) 352-3705
Fax: (701) 352-3170
Website: www.northvalley.k12.nd.us

Testimony of Michael Hanson, Director
North Valley Career & Technology Center
Support for HB 1019 – Career & Technical Education Funding
March 14, 2023

Chairman Dever and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 1019. My name is Mike Hanson, Director of North Valley Career & Technology Center, serving our member districts of Drayton, Grafton, Midway, Minto, Park River Area, and Valley-Edinburg.

There are many items in this appropriations bill that are critical to ensure adequate funding for CTE Programs across the state. I will highlight a few priorities for North Valley. Without \$4 million for cost to continue our Center, and CTE across North Dakota, would go backwards. The \$8 million for new and expanding would be critical to fund programs that are currently approved by DCTE but receiving no funding. Reappropriate the Work-Based Learning Coordinators allocation back to the \$3 million requested by Mr. Wayne Sick's initial request. This would allow us to employ a full-time position to work to connect students and industry to maximize students' opportunities and full workforce demands.

Through the Federal Coronavirus Career & Technical Education Capital Projects Grant process, North Valley was awarded \$9.4 million to expand coverage and add CTE pathways to stay current with industry needs of our region and state. Since our application was submitted and awarded, the inflationary costs have increased to a point that we would not be able to implement the project we wrote for. Cutting pieces out is not an option as our industry partners, which provided matching funds, are expecting the full product we presented and sold them on. DCTE is asking that you restore at a minimum the one-time ask of \$40 million back into HB 1019 to complete the work that was awarded to us during last session.

We ask for your support now in the 2023 - 68th Legislative Assembly to approve HB 1019 to avoid further delays and expenses for these already approved projects. Investing in area career and technical education is not only a vision for learners but a legacy for North Dakota education and workforce development.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Hanson, Director

An equal opportunity educator and employer.