



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
HB 1019
Senate Appropriations Committee
Human Resources Division
Chairman Dick Dever
March 14, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1019.

Recently, GNDC partnered with the NDSU Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth to complete a survey about the business climate in North Dakota. The survey found that 62% of respondents felt the number one factor holding businesses back is difficulty attracting and retaining qualified workers.

Our members support collaborative efforts between private sector and educational institutions to better meet workforce needs. We feel that it is important to maximize the flexibility and responsiveness of K-12, two and four-year educational institutions, and other expanded educational opportunities to meet local training needs and demands. Additionally, we support partnerships and resources that implement career awareness programs, work-based learning, and upskilling opportunities to cultivate workforce attraction and retention.

Specifically, we hope you will consider the following workforce training program funding:

- \$20 million for CTE Centers
- \$40 million for New and Expanding CTE Centers Inflation Impact
- \$2 million for Workforce Training
- Continued funding for CTE programs

These programs offered by the Department of Career and Technical Education are an important piece of the solution in addressing workforce shortages. We urge you to support them. Thank you for your consideration.