

Testimony



SENATE BILL NO. 2012

Senate Appropriations - Human Resources Division January 24, 2023

Senator Dever and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee – Human Resources Division. The Valley Prosperity Partnership (VPP) is a membership organization led by business executives – joined by leaders from higher education, economic development, and chambers of commerce – to advance and advocate for shared strategic economic development opportunities that will strengthen and diversify the Red River Valley region and the entirety of North Dakota.

Employers of all sizes in all sectors of North Dakota’s economy depend on working parents. Working parents, in turn, depend upon childcare. Without it, many parents – particularly mothers – cannot join or rejoin the labor force.

Quality childcare is an early learning setting for young children that creates a foundation for future learning, including school readiness. This makes childcare a two-generation support for working families, helping parents return to the workforce while also giving kids a future-learning jump start.

The VPP supports SB2012 and strongly endorses funding for childcare that will positively impact availability, affordability, and workforce. Closing the childcare gap is a top priority for the VPP and employers throughout North Dakota.

Valley Prosperity Partnership Steering Committee

Brian Johnson, CEO, Choice Bank,
Co-Chair Valley Prosperity Partnership*

Judd Graham, Market President
Dacotah Bank - Fargo
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Andrew Armacost, President
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Steve Burian, President & CEO
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Dan Conrad, President & CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield North Dakota

David Cook, President
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Tim Curoe, CEO
RD Offutt Company

Mylo Einarson, President & CEO
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