

January 27, 2023

Chairman Bekkedahl and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

RE: Support for HB1199 – Career and Technical Education

Dear Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations – My name is Dale Hoerauf. I am the Director of Career and Technical Education for Bismarck Public Schools. I am reaching out to you in support of HB1199.

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 who are able to choose from 38 Career and Technical courses. Three years ago we added English, Social Studies and Math core classes for students who wanted another way of receiving core credit other than the traditional method. It is a competency based, personalized learning program.

HB1199 gives schools in the state the opportunity to increase the number of Career and Technical offerings during a time when there is a demand for skilled workforce in North Dakota and the nation. At the Bismarck Public School Career Academy we are out of space and our original plan was to build Career Academy 2.0. We had a number of meetings with industry and community partners, and hired an architect firm. 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. This bill would provide funds to continue with our plans of Career Academy 2.0 for Bismarck Public Schools.

Support for HB 1199 is support for North Dakota's CTE growth and provides the ability to expand access to CTE programs for students across the state.

Sincerely,

  
Dale Hoerauf

Director Bismarck Public Schools Career and Technical Education