



**NDSBA**  
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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**HB 1199**  
**Senate Appropriations**  
**January 30, 2023**  
**Testimony of Alexis Baxley**

Good morning, Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Alexis Baxley, and I serve as the executive director of the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents the elected school boards of all 170 public school districts and several special education units in North Dakota.

NDSBA stands in support of HB 1199. I was fortunate to serve on the committee that reviewed the Career and Technical Education center applications and awarded the grants earlier this year. Every single project submitted was very impressive. I can not say enough positive things about these projects and the CTE work being done in our state. We know that students who experience CTE often thrive, and expanding the number of CTE centers in our state would have a tremendous effect on student outcomes and workforce development – a true win-win for North Dakotans.

The legislature saw the benefits of CTE and authorized the funds for these centers in both the 2021 regular and special sessions. We appreciate that support.

Unfortunately, many of the projects have stalled because the federal funds have not yet been made available. HB 1199 would allow most of those projects to restart and continue construction while we wait for the funds to be released by the federal government. The additional appropriation to cover accrued interest is a worthy investment in our state, our students, and our workforce. The sooner when can get access to funding to these projects, the better.

The North Dakota School Boards Association urges a do-pass on HB 1199. Thank you.