



**Testimony of Dana Hager**  
**Economic Development Association of North Dakota**  
**In Support of HB 1540**  
**April 24, 2023**

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

I am Dana Hager, executive director of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND), and on behalf of our members, I want to express our support for HB 1540.

EDND represents more than 100 state economic development organizations and businesses on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The organization's primary purpose is to promote new wealth creation throughout North Dakota to develop more vibrant and efficient communities and improve quality of life.

Workforce is a critical priority and challenge nationwide. While the solution to attracting and retaining qualified workers is complex, we do know that the economic impact of childcare matters and has a spillover impact throughout our counties and cities. The childcare piece of the workforce puzzle requires partners from across sectors to work together toward a shared goal—the goal for affordable, accessible and quality childcare solutions for North Dakota families.

HB 1540 will address many of the state's childcare challenges and we encourage your support and a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you.