



Feb 28th, 2023

To: Chairman Elkin and Members of the Senate Education Committee

My name is Aaron Anderson and I have the pleasure of working for the Southwest Area CTE Academy (SW CTE) in Dickinson, ND. SW CTE is currently a partnership of seven high schools, Dickinson State University and numerous business and industry partners in SW ND. As we continue to move forward with this project, we continue to add schools and business partners that are committed to providing high quality Career and Technical Education to help train and develop the next generation of North Dakota workers.

My testimony today is to show support for HB1178 in giving CTE Centers & Academies like ours the ability to expand our governance structure to include post-secondary, business and industry and parochial school partners. With the growth and expansion of CTE across ND, it is imperative that we stay connected with industry trends, build a seamless secondary to post-secondary transition, provide access to workforce training for all students which will help build a stronger workforce for our state.

While each of our training programs operate an industry advisory committee our governance board is only made up of school board members from our partner schools. This bill would bring in additional voices and perspectives to the conversation and strengthen the operations of our organizations. HB 1178 will not require a CTE Center to add these positions, only the opportunity to do so if they felt it would better serve their needs.

A CTE Center must have a minimum of three partner schools and is typically tied to a larger school district in the state. For every three hundred students that are enrolled allow an additional board member on the governance board capped at a maximum of three from any one school. This means these additional positions outlined in HB1178 would always be in the minority of the board makeup.

Thank you for your continued support of Career and Technical Education across our great state and for your considerations regarding this legislation in front of you today.

Sincerely,

Aaron Anderson
CTE Director
Southwest Area CTE Academy
Dickinson Public Schools