

Representative Mike Lefor

#### HB 1178 Testimony

Good afternoon chair Elkin, vice chair Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee, for the record, my name is Mike Lefor and I represent District 37 Dickinson in the House. I bring HB 1178 to you for your consideration.

As we all know, career and tech academies are providing more educational opportunities for our young people and adults as well. There are many strategies at play when offering these opportunities. Recently, CTE's have been appearing in all regions of our state. It takes many components to be successful.

These academies are sometimes the result of collaboration of many different sectors within a community or region. This includes public and private education, universities, the private sector, community and business leaders and members of our local economic development groups.

For example, in Dickinson, a task force was created to start a CTE to serve southwestern North Dakota, which included representatives from Dickinson State University, Trinity Catholic Schools, Dickinson Public Schools and more in advancing the new center.

In the North Dakota century code, it currently provides for these facilities to have a board of directors. At the present time, only public schools have representation on these boards. This was a great model to have previously, however, the game has changed.

With so many groups coming together, it presents an opportunity to not only involve them from a talent and treasure perspective, but overall governance as well. HB 1178 changes current code beginning on page 1, line 9 by stating that each CTE board must have at least five members and no more than one member of a participating school district. On page 1, lines 14 and 15, it removes the language requiring center boards must be members of school boards.

The bill breaks down board membership with school district members as has been done previously and adds the potential for community board members. It states that the center board may appoint one community member from each of the following entities to serve on the center board. This includes a university member, a parochial or private school member and an individual from the private sector. It sets the term limit for community board members at three years.

In subsection 5, it states that school district member vacancies must be filled by the school board whose representation was lost due to a vacancy. Community member vacancies may be filled by appointment as indicated in the first part of the bill. According to the state department of career and technical education, more than \$80 million has been donated to our career and tech academies in the past several years. This included cash, in kind and property donations. Many in the private sector are wanting to provide scholarships providing a strong partnership with CTE's.

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I believe this gives local CTE boards the ability to move forward with additional expertise and partnerships. Additionally, the elected school board members would always have the majority of the board seats to be in control. I ask the Senate Education Committee to give HB 1178 a do pass recommendation and position our academies for greater success.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.