

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee, for the record my name is Byron Snider, I am the VP of Technology for Scheels All Sports, Inc. I am submitting testimony in support of HB1398.

We know that computers and technology are the future tools of the workforce in North Dakota. Currently the North Dakota required education standards do not make accommodations for these skill sets. Given the clear future of workforce skill set needs it would be a prudent step to include computer education into the Century code for education requirements.

HB1398 does a good job in providing a standard and yet allows flexibility by allowing one unit of computer science or cybersecurity. Computer Science is a foundational piece of the workforce in the future. Potentially more important than Geography, Government or Science.

The sooner we introduce core computer education into the curriculum the better we will be for the future. We have seen a direct correlation between students that learn Music or a foreign language to those that are good Software Developers. We would expect even better results for the future workforce when cybersecurity and computer science is introduced sooner in the education journey of North Dakota students.

Finally I want to touch on the grant portion of HB1398. Cybersecurity for adult learning is critical to ensuring we are doing good due diligence with today's urgent needs. You do not need to read the national news very long to find a computer breach or Cybersecurity issue. Providing grant dollars to try and meet the short term immediate needs for career centers and workforce centers is a smart prudent use of funds.

We would urge a do pass recommendation on HB 1398

Byron Snider  
SIS Leader - Scheels