



1 HB 1521

2 Testimony in support – Learn Everywhere

3 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. I am
4 here representing your school leaders in support of this bill. The learn
5 everywhere bill was passed last session to provide a pathway for enhanced
6 opportunities for business and industry to partner with schools and
7 students and for students to be able to earn credit in school for appropriate
8 experiences. Education and business and industry enthusiastically
9 supported the bill. However, last session we were unsure of the rationale
10 to have so many layers of approval in the process when local districts really
11 already had all the authority they needed to do the spirit of the bill.

12 What passed was a method for approval that has proven to be
13 cumbersome and unnecessary. In fact, districts have been doing
14 internships and apprenticeships for years. Many of you might be familiar
15 with the “school to work program.” Schools are not using the Learning
16 Continuum program because the process proved to have enough red tape
17 that they continued to use processes already in place to perform the same
18 work. How it exists in law currently is after the board of a district has
19 approved a proposal – that proposal was to go to the K12 coordination
20 council for review and then to the superintendent of public instruction for
21 approval or denial, and that the superintendent of public instruction could
22 intervene and end a school/work partnership.



1 **Issues with current law:**

- 2 • Board of a local district should have the authority to do this without
3 further approvals in place. This is the case in other areas of century
4 code that share similarity in nature.
- 5 • This responsibility is beyond the scope of the K12 coordination
6 council. Further their meeting structure and timing doesn't match
7 to do such work.
- 8 • This process should be handled locally.

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10 **What the bill does:**

11 This bill very simply removes the layered process of approval and leaves
12 that awarding of credit for experience and achievement of the standard
13 when there is cooperation with outside business and industry to be at the
14 discretion of the locally elected school board and school district. The state
15 superintendent retains authority to intervene in cases where the
16 partnership is outside of the current authority that exists with career and
17 technical education programs.

18 If the state is looking for more schools utilizing this authority, getting rid
19 of the red tape and respecting the decision making of our local boards.
20 Thank you for considering this testimony. We ask respectfully for a DO
21 PASS recommendation of this bill.