



**Senate Workforce Development Committee – HB 1030**

**Senator Michael Wobbema, Chair**

**March 2, 2023**

Chairman Wobbema, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I am the President & CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept the following testimony on behalf of our organization's more than 1,230 business members in support of HB 1030.

HB 1030 reauthorizes the Skilled Workforce Student Loan Repayment and Scholarship programs, also known as Career Builders. The Career Builders program is an important tool to educate, train and retain our future workforce and aids in attracting and retaining individuals in high-demand occupations.

Within the Chamber EDC's 2023 Legislative Agenda, support for the Career Builders Program is specifically noted given the program's past success. That's because Career Builders and other workforce development programs have effectively partnered support from the State of North Dakota with that from the private sector.

At a time when workforce is the most commonly cited challenge by our members, programs like Career Builders are a needed tool. As such, I would respectfully ask that the Committee give a DO PASS recommendation to HB 1030.