



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
HB 1232
Senate Workforce Development Committee
Chair Mike Wobbema
March 7, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1232.

Recently, GNDC partnered with the NDSU Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth to complete a survey about the business climate in North Dakota. The survey found that 62% of respondents felt the number one factor holding businesses back is difficulty attracting and retaining qualified workers. The results of the survey were reflected in the discussions held by our members in our policy position development process.

Our members feel it is important to maximize the flexibility and responsiveness of K-12, two and four-year educational institutions, and provide expanded educational opportunities to meet local training needs and demands.

HB 1232 would provide North Dakota students with access to career exploration virtual reality software. This provides industries the ability to create awareness of the various opportunities within each field, benefiting both students and North Dakota businesses.

We respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1232.