



**Senate Workforce Development
HB1232**

March 9, 2023

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, for the record, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support for HB1232.

For approximately 15 years, the Department of Career and Technical Education has provided RUPrepareND, a career exploration platform, to the students of North Dakota. There are resources in RUPrepareND that are appropriate for all ages, elementary, middle, high school, and college. We continue to develop upgrades, to further assist students to explore the career opportunities. Most recently, we implemented a work-based learning module that would help educators connect their students to community-based work-based learning experiences, giving students hands on experiences.

HB1232 would provide funding that would provide a virtual reality component to the RUPrepareND platform. The benefit of this resource is to provide experiences to students otherwise would not have the opportunity to have due to limitations. The barriers that often stand in the way are lack of access to a wide variety of industries, transportation costs, safety concerns and the time needed to travel to and visit worksites.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for questions.