



NDSBA
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HB 1232

Senate Workforce Development | March 9, 2023

Testimony of Taylor Lassiter, North Dakota School Boards Association

Good morning, Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee. My name is Taylor Lassiter, and I serve as the membership and marketing specialist of the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents the elected school boards of all 170 public school districts and several special education units in North Dakota.

The North Dakota School Boards Association supports HB 1232. This past fall, I had the opportunity to experience Mr. Chausee's BeMore Colorful virtual reality career exploration technology at our annual convention. It was a phenomenon I had not experienced before – something I wish was available to me as a student years ago. The expanse of opportunities that districts, particularly rural, have in using virtual reality technology that BeMore Colorful offers is immense on the impact of workforce and ensuring equity in schools across the state. Although not physically in the setting of the “experience” or “potential career path”, this technology immerses your visual sense and allows you to interact with the scenes. The exposure can spark an interest in a student's future work life – their bread and butter. The technology allows for districts with smaller budgets to be level with larger budget districts, meets time, transportation, cost, staffing issues, and helps solve safety concerns that some jobsite hazards may have. HB 1232 is a statewide workforce development solution.

I respectfully ask the committee to give this bill a do-pass recommendation. Thank you.