

Chair Wobbema, Vice-Chair Axtman, and members of the Senate Committee on Workforce Development:

For the record I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative. I am here to introduce Reengrossed House Bill No. 1241, a bill to provide funds to the institutions of higher learning for innovative workforce program development and the enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.

Previously, a similar program existed under the department of commerce so this is not a new idea but expanded. The bill denotes:

- What the award dollars can be utilized for (lines 8-14 on page 1) and include:
 - Curriculum development
 - Equipment and technology purchases
 - Facility modification and equipment installation
 - Hiring and training new and existing instructors
 - Educational program promotion
 - Enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools
- That the awards must be reviewed and approved by the state board of higher education and that the board is responsible to submit a detailed biennial program report to legislative management.

The current appropriation is \$10 million (HB1003) for the workforce innovation program that includes up to \$200,000 for program administration. At institutions of higher learning, program development is a two-year venture with a return on the investment beginning when students enroll. Thus, funds are necessary to design, develop, and staff the programs.

NDUS system personnel assisted with the writing of HB1241 and representatives from the system office will provide additional information.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this proposed legislation.