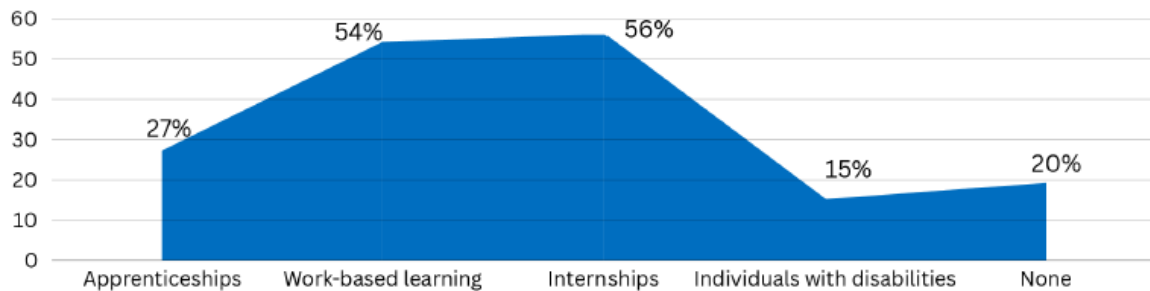


Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota’s largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1036.

In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership, 70% of respondents indicated they were having trouble hiring employees. Labor availability has been identified as the top business concern facing companies in North Dakota.

However, when we asked about workforce solutions, only 27% of respondents indicated that they were utilizing apprenticeships. Based on this information, we feel there is room for growth when it comes to utilizing apprenticeships as a workforce solution. The components of this bill will provide valuable resources to employers interested in creating apprenticeships opportunities within their companies.

Which workforce solution do you utilize/use/hire?



We hope that you will strengthen North Dakota’s business climate by investing in workforce development strategies. Thank you for your consideration.