



1 **SB 2019 - Department of Career and Technical Education Funding**
2 **Central Region Area Career and Technical Center Testimony in Support**
3

January 13, 2025

4 Chairperson Sorvaag, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in
5 support of Senate Bill No. 2019. My name is Pat Phillips, and I am the director of the Central Regional Area Career
6 and Technical Center as well as the CTE director for Bismarck Public Schools.

7 This bill provides critical appropriations for the Department of Career and Technical Education to ensure that North
8 Dakota's learners have access to robust programs that prepare them for success in an ever-changing workforce. By
9 supporting key areas such as secondary education, adult learning, workforce training, and STEM initiatives, Senate
10 Bill No. 2019 emphasizes the importance of comprehensive and inclusive educational opportunities.

11 In particular, the bill underscores the vital role of secondary education in equipping young learners with the skills,
12 knowledge, and experiences necessary to thrive in post-secondary education and future careers. By continuing to
13 prioritize resources for secondary programs, the state reinforces its commitment to fostering a strong foundation for
14 lifelong learning and economic success.

15 Additionally, the provisions for workforce training grants and regional educational initiatives reflect a balanced and
16 strategic approach to addressing workforce needs across the state. This ensures that students in all regions,
17 regardless of their location or circumstances, benefit from high-quality career and technical education
18 opportunities.

19 Senate Bill No. 2019 demonstrates a forward-thinking vision for education in North Dakota. By providing
20 comprehensive support for secondary education and aligning resources with workforce demands, this legislation
21 supports the success of students and the prosperity of our communities. I strongly encourage the committee to
22 support this bill and to continue championing the value of career and technical education.

23 Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or for further
24 information.

25 Sincerely,

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