



SB 2131

Senate Workforce Development Committee

January 14, 2025

Nichole Wischnak, TrainND Southeast Director, Director of Workforce Affairs & Sales-NDSCS
701.231.6912 | nichole.wischnak@ndscs.edu

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee. My name is Nichole Wischnak, and I serve as the Director of Workforce Affairs & Sales at NDSCS, which serves the SE region of TrainND. I am here today on behalf of TrainND SE to provide opposing testimony related to SB 2131.

TrainND is a vital program to assist in workforce development and upskilling for North Dakota. TrainND needs flexibility and adaptability to change the funding formula regarding the ever-changing workforce demands. This bill could serve as a burden and harm the growth of TrainND, resulting in a lengthy and troublesome process that would reduce training productivity, and a reduction in revenue generated.

Since its inception, TrainND's funding formula has been reviewed internally every two years allowing TrainND the flexibility to adapt as needed with the demands of the workforce, allowing us the ability to change the formula as needed. Locking the current funding formula into century code would serve as a disadvantage and harm the growth of TrainND, making it a lengthy and troublesome process that would negatively affect revenue generated and more importantly training opportunities for TrainND.

With a process currently in place for discussion on funding formulas every two years, adding the additional step of turning this into century code is unnecessary. Additionally, if approved, staff would need to spend valuable time and resources preparing to have the century code updated instead of focusing on creating training opportunities and generating revenues. The majority of TrainND is a self-generating revenue, and locking in one version of a funding formula will limit the opportunities for additional revenue if it needs updating in the future and a deterrent of training workforce for TrainND.

On February 22, 2024, TrainND presented at the Workforce Interim Committee on the funding formula, and the discussion of submitting into century code was discussed. *It was unanimously agreed upon not submitting the funding formula into century code.* This included all Directors of the TrainND regions, and the Presidents of their respective colleges. This bill goes against what TrainND supports for updating and processing funding formulas for the future.

I request a **Do Not Pass** on the bill and will stand for questions from Committee members. This concludes my testimony related to SB2131.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichole Wischnak
Director of Workforce Affairs & Sales