



SB 2131

Senate Workforce Development Committee

Friday, January 17, 2025

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Chair Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee. My name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs with the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am testifying today in opposition SB 2131 on behalf of the NDUS and the four presidents of the campuses responsible for TrainND—Williston State College, Lake Region State College, Bismarck State College, and North Dakota State College of Science.

I testify from the vantage point as an NDUS administrator who has observed the four TrainND quadrants for well over a decade. The four TrainND directors and respective presidents understand the importance of working together to produce cohesive marketing materials, a two-year business plan, an annual performance report that is approved by the State Board of Higher Education, and rotate leadership among the TrainND directors.

The NDUS and the presidents of the TrainND quadrants are not expressing opposition to the agreed upon distribution of funds among the four TrainND quadrants. Rather, the NDUS and the campus presidents of the TrainND quadrants respectfully ask this Committee to consider the recommendation of the Interim Workforce Committee on February 22, 2024, to refrain from codifying the funding formula in century code and to permit TrainND the flexibility to adapt to changing workforce needs.

For this reason, the NDUS and the presidents of the TrainND quadrants seek a vote of “do not pass” on SB 2131.