



Senate Workforce Development Committee

01/30/25

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 2239

Presented by Don Larson on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

Chairperson Wobbema, members of the committee,

My name is Don Larson, and I am here today in my capacity as the State Director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). NFIB strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2239, which aims to establish an apprenticeship grant program in North Dakota.

Support for Workforce Development: The NFIB represents more than two-thousand small and independent businesses across North Dakota. One of the most significant challenges our members face is finding skilled workers to fill critical positions. Senate Bill No. 2239 addresses this issue by providing financial support to individuals enrolled in registered apprenticeship programs. This initiative will help bridge the skills gap and ensure that our businesses have access to a well-trained workforce.

Economic Benefits: Investing in apprenticeship programs not only benefits the individuals who receive the training but also has a positive impact on the broader economy. By supporting apprenticeships, we are fostering a pipeline of skilled workers who can contribute to the growth and success of small businesses. This,

in turn, leads to job creation, increased productivity, and a more robust economy for North Dakota.

Financial Support: The appropriation of \$1,100,000 for the biennium to administer the apprenticeship grant program is a prudent investment in our state's future. By providing up to \$1,000 per year to eligible individuals, this program will make apprenticeship opportunities more accessible and affordable, encouraging more individuals to pursue these valuable training pathways.

In conclusion, the NFIB strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2239. We believe that this bill will play a role in addressing the workforce challenges faced by small businesses in North Dakota. We urge the committee to pass this bill and help ensure a prosperous future for our state's economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.