



NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

2901 Twin City Dr. Suite 201
Mandan, North Dakota 58554
(701) 663-8821

© GCU 280 C

January 29, 2025

To the Honorable Michael Wobbema and Member Senators of the Workforce Development Committee

RE: Senate Bill 2239; Supportive testimony for the apprenticeship grant program

Representing workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential construction industries from foundation to finish, we are committed to promoting, recruiting, and developing careers for all workers in the skilled trades in North Dakota. Construction is a rewarding career, and we are fully committed to passing this industry along to younger generations. Utilizing an apprenticeship program is the primary means to achieve this goal, and as such, we are in support of SB 2239.

A Registered Apprenticeship Program is a post-secondary educational model that combines hands-on training with classroom instruction. All registered programs in North Dakota are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. This entity ensures the content of any registered program in the state is equitable to any other program across the country for the apprentice.

Registered Apprenticeship Programs provide apprentices with a low-cost education while being employed in a tiered system of increasing wages based off percentages. However, since apprentices are starting out in their careers, items such as school supplies, tools of the trade, educational materials, and others are required for purchase. Utilizing a grant program to offset their educational investment will promote additional recruiting and retaining efforts for apprentices in the construction industry for the state.

Therefore, the North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council is in support of SB 2239 and urges for a Do Pass recommendation to the Committee.

With kindest regards, I am

Jason Ehlert
North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council
President
Lobbyist No. 347
Jason@ndbtu.org