

**House Education
HB1375**

January 26, 2021

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support of HB1375.

The Department of Career and Technical Education supports HB1375 as it would provide students with financial support to enroll in dual credit courses, prior to high school graduation. As dual credit Career and Technical Education courses continue to grow, this would give many students a head start in their respective career path. Since the bill proposes the program as tuition credit incentive, students will be required to enroll in an institution of higher education in North Dakota to receive the credit.

I do have one recommendation for the bill. I suggest an amendment is considered for Section 1, subsection 2.b., that includes the state's Tribal and private institutions as eligible institutions. This could encourage our Native American students, who may elect to attend a Tribal College, to enroll in dual credit courses and allow students to attend one of our private institutions. The intent, I believe, is to encourage the students to stay in state for their education and hopefully to meet a future workforce need.

This concludes my testimony and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.