

**Senate Appropriations
SB2031**

January 21, 2021

Chairman Holmberg 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 SB2031, specifically Section 1.

The Department of Career and Technical Education supports SB2031 as it would change the weighting factor in the Higher Education Funding Formula, to place a higher emphasis on courses considered as Career and Technical in nature. These courses are often times more expensive to operate, as equipment and supplies are necessary to appropriately teach students the needed skills to gain employment in the related occupational fields. The programs that will be positively impacted lead to high wage, in demand and high skill employment opportunities. You may also say that these occupations employ the “essential workers” during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Career and Technical Education will assist the State Board of Higher Education, as needed, to determine coursework that may be deemed Career and Technical Education in nature.

Thank you.