

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, House Representative from West Fargo, District 13.

The origin of **HB 1430** is from Red River High School in Grand Forks where several students asked their Career Tech teacher this question, “Why can’t we apply for **BOTH** the ***C-T-E*** Scholarship and the ***Academic*** Scholarship being offered by the State?”

Each has a maximum of \$6,000 dollars at \$750 a semester.

The House Education Committee wasn’t quite ready for that jump, so **HB 1430** was amended to allow ***C-T-E*** students to earn 15 hundred dollars a semester equaling the **Six-Thousand-dollar** level of the Academic Scholarship.

Let’s walk through the bill.

Page 1, lines 10 and 11 reaffirms the continuation of the current ND Scholarship program through December 31st of this year at 750 a semester with a GPA of 2.75.

Page 1, lines 20 and 21 does the same but for schools that are on the quarter system.

Page 2 outlines all the current requirements of the scholarship.

That continues into **Page 3** until lines 28 to 31.

That’s the essence of this bill in which Career Tech students will receive 15-hundred-person per semester.

Page 4 gives details on the Quarter system.

Page 5, lines 17, 19 and 21 and **Page 6**, line 19 changes the scholarship requirement from full-time to **at least** half-time.

That allows students to have **more flexibility** if needed to go to school while working at the same time which most do.

There is a fiscal note which I'd like to address.

The Scholarship program was established ten years ago as you can see on the last page of my testimony.

For a decade, academics students have had up to six years at 750 a semester to receive the full six-thousand-dollar scholarship.

However, over the last ten years, **C-T-E** students have NOT been able to access the full six-thousand-dollar scholarship at 750 a semester because they are out of school within two to three years.

Now, I'm a bit too old to say, "that's not fair."

But I will say we need to fix the Scholarship program so **C-T-E** students would have equal access to the full scholarship.

I'm hoping you agree.

I would put the **C-T-E** students' **R-O-I** (return on investment) as high as any other student in the State.

The 10-year State Scholarship program is now available to 11 public institutions, 3 private institutions, 5 tribal colleges and Rasmussen College in Fargo.

It has become a major force in addressing our **workforce shortage** issue in North Dakota.

House Bill 1430 has the full support of the Department of Public Instruction.

House Bill 1430 has the full support of the **Higher Education System**.

HB 1430 passed the **House** twice!

The competition from other **Trade** schools in South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota is **intense**. But let's win.

If this bill meets **your** standard for the advancement of **career technology** in North Dakota, I ask for a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Thank You Mr. Chairman and Committee members.

I am open to questions you may have.

When would this change happen?

Students who qualify would begin in the Fall of 2022. Those who are now receiving the scholarship would continue with current requirements through 2026-27. (6 years max for Academic scholarships).