



To: Senate Education Committee
From: Katie Mastel, Government Affairs Manager, FMWF Chamber of Commerce
Date: March 10, 2021
RE: **Support HB 1430**

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Katie Mastel and I serve as the Government Affairs and Advocacy Manager of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of our over 2,000 Chamber members, **I urge your support for HB 1430.**

This legislation, through adjusting the rate at which students whom are eligible for the ND career and technical education scholarship receive their disbursements, will allow them to earn the intended scholarship amount of \$6,000. Currently, if a student completes their education to earn an associate's degree in the standard two years, the existing statute would prohibit them from earning the full \$6,000, rather they would receive \$750 per semester, for a total of \$3,000.

This scholarship incentive has been presented to high school students as a pathway upon graduating high school to continue education in North Dakota, and providing that they follow conditions such as receiving adequate grades and continuing sufficient progress toward degree completion, will receive \$6,000 for this scholarship program. This promise is misleading for those enrolled in CTE programs, due to the current statute's limitations on the rate of disbursements.

Adjusting this rate would better incentivize, as opposed to penalize, students who seek a two-year associates degree instead of four-year bachelor's degree. Furthermore, this change would incentivize students to enroll in additional CTE courses which in turn would positively impact our workforce pipeline for in-demand high-paying jobs.

I urge you to consider carrying out the good intention of the original statute to award students who are eligible for the scholarship the full \$6,000. With that, I would ask you to support HB 1430. Thank you for your consideration.

Katie Mastel
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