

**House Education
SB2196**

January 26, 2021

Chairman Schaible 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 SB2196.

The Department of Career and Technical Education supports SB2196 as it would provide school districts more flexibility to move towards a competency-based model when educating their students. This would allow for creativity, such as the Innovation Pathway at Bismarck Career Academy. The Innovation Pathway allows students to master standards, both General and Education, through Career and Technical Education courses. This, for many students, provides more relevance to their education. The competency-based framework may also foster more industry and education partnerships, allowing for students to earn credit while practicing their future career pathway with an employer. These are just two examples of opportunities that lie ahead for our students, given more flexibility and creativity is allowed in our K-12 schools.

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

Thank you.