

Senate Education
SB2229

February 2, 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 SB2229.

Every year, approximately 15-20 Career and Technical Education Student Teachers are in our schools and area career and technology centers, specifically in the areas of Agricultural Education, Family and Consumer Science and Business Education. These student teachers, committed to be the best teacher they possibly can be, have the added burden of limited funds to pay tuition, pay rent, and buy necessities such as food, transportation cost, etc. This puts student teacher's, upon graduation, deeper in debt, adding to the stress of being a first-year teacher. The funds SB2229 would provide to our student teachers would lighten that burden and allow them to focus on their education and training. This may also be an added incentive to encourage graduates to remain in the state.

My only request I have for 2229, is to possibly amend SB2229 to include not just rural school districts, but also the state's area career and technology centers, that may serve rural school districts. This would allow student teachers to complete their education at a center and be eligible for the student teacher scholarship.

Thank you and I will try to answer any questions you may have.