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January 8, 2023

Members of the North Dakota House Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee

RE: Support for HB1019 – Career and Technical Education

Dear Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee. I am reaching out to you in support of HB1019. Career and Technical Education's (CTE) ability to provide students with career exploration and awareness, hands-on learning experiences, skills and leadership preparations, connections to post-secondary education and dual credit opportunities, prospects to obtain industry credentials, and alignment with industry in providing work-based learning opportunities positions CTE to engage and retain our youth within our state's current and future workforce.

As one of five Virtual Career and Technical Education Centers approved by the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education, the Central Regional Area Career and Technical Education Center (CRACTC) will be impacted by HB1019 as we continue to research and strive to address ways to provide high school students learning opportunities in high-need, high-wage areas. Currently the CRACTC is serving over 600 students, within over 800 course enrollments, throughout 56 different public and private high schools within North Dakota, mainly within rural communities. CRACTC is serving students within eight (8) different program pathways including Agriculture, Aviation, Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS), Graphic Arts, Health Sciences, Information Technology, Marketing, and Technology & Engineering. We are currently working with the ND Department of Career and Technical Education Department and other CTE Centers within North Dakota to help expand programming into other career pathways such as Law & Public Safety, Heavy Equipment Operations, and Construction Trades. Additionally, we are working with higher education partners to provide dual credit opportunities for students in high school to help reduce their future post-secondary costs in areas such as Health Science, Information Technology, and possible expansion into Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training. As well, CRACTC is working with member districts to help develop and implement mobile lab programming into their local Agriculture and Family & Consumer Science programming, through cost-sharing and rotational applications.

The North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education requests within HB1019 aims to sustain, expand, and enhance current programming for career education, technical training, and workforce development, in a time in which over 10 million jobs are currently going unfilled in the United States and, as of December 2022 statistics, over 16,000 in North Dakota alone. Support of HB1019 is support for North Dakota's CTE growth and provides the ability to expand access to CTE for students across the state through area career centers, such as CRACTC, as well as through local high school CTE programs, for workforce development and desired retention of North Dakota students. Thank you for your important work during this legislative session!

Sincerely,

Lyle P Krueger

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Assistant Director

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