



1 Testimony in Opposition

2 HB 1163

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. For the record my
4 name is Kevin Hoherz, I am representing the North Dakota Council of Educational
5 Leaders representing school leaders across North Dakota. I come to you in opposition to
6 SB 2260 with a proposal to refer the optional Career and Technical Education high school
7 diploma for a study to determine its viability.

8 Currently, North Dakota have approved two graduation pathways. HB 1163 would add a
9 third diploma option. We support career exploration options for students, but we feel the
10 way the bill is written, another alternative diploma should warrant a closer look.

11 HB 1163 has good components. Some members in schools have brought forward a few
12 questions or comments about the bill, as written. Some parts of HB 1163 are similar to
13 the Learn Everywhere bill passed last session. The two current graduation requirement
14 options do not have a minimum test score requirement. More and more colleges are not
15 requiring ACT test scores for acceptance, so why would we want to make the ACT test
16 score or a WorkKeys test score a graduation requirement. A score of 22 on the ACT is
17 above the state average and five on the three Workkeys test is the current score needed
18 for the CTE Scholarship. It could be difficult for student pursuing this CTE diploma
19 pathway to obtain the required ACT or WorkKeys test scores to graduate especially with
20 one less English credit unit and one less science credit unit than the requirement for a
21 regular diploma.

22 The two current graduation requirements do not have a minimum grade point average
23 requirement. HB 1163 has a minimum GPA of 1.666 to qualify for graduation. The GPA
24 and test scores could have a scenario that a student has met the credit unit requirements
25 to graduate but could not graduate because they could not meet a minimum test score or
26 GPA.



1 Another concern is a student will have to commit to the CTE graduation pathway during
2 their sophomore year or the beginning of their junior year at the latest. It could be
3 difficult for students to change their minds and qualify for the traditional graduation
4 requirements.

5 There are many good ideas in this bill that support students in their pathway to be career
6 and workforce ready. A study could amend any issues there may be in this bill and help
7 the students be successful. With that reasoning, we are in opposition to HB 1163 and
8 propose you consider a study to make amendments to assure the best options for student
9 success.

10 Thank you and I am open to any questions.

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