

HB1240 – Introduction and Support January 23, 2023, 3PM

Chair Heinert and members of the Committee on Education --

For the record, I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative. I am before you today to introduce and support House Bill 1240.

The bill proposes changes to what is commonly referred to as Career Builders, a loan repayment and scholarship program established in 2019 to fill high demand occupations in North Dakota. Career Builders is administered by the North Dakota University System (NDUS) office. The NDUS website includes the following information regarding the current program.

*The ND Career Builders program provides matching funds to help North Dakota businesses recruit employees and keep our talent in North Dakota. A tool for businesses to recruit and retain talent in high-need occupations in ND, this innovative partnership provides \$1 of state funds for each \$1 of private-sector matching funds, up to a total of \$17,000 per recipient! Individuals can receive a scholarship on the front end, loan repayment on the back-end, or both, for their commitment to the state to fill one of the high-demand occupations. It is a win-win for businesses, students, employees, and the state! (<https://ndus.edu/career-builders/>)*

The proposed changes to the programs include:

1. The state board of higher education may transfer money between the skilled workforce scholarship fund and the workforce student loan repayment program.
2. Public funds can be utilized for the match, versus only private funds, in both programs.
  - a. For the scholarship, public funds were added specifically for students to utilize in the final two years of a teacher education program.
  - b. For the loan repayment, public funds can be utilized for any high-demand occupation.
3. Removed the repeal date of July 1, 2023.

Funding: Addition of \$1 million per program or \$2 million total.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed legislation.

**(Additional information – current Career Builders programs)**

The ***High-Need and Emerging Occupations List*** is what drives the program as it establishes the occupations in ND that are in high demand. The Workforce Development Council and ND Job Service review and establish the qualifying high-need and emerging occupations annually.

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### **SCHOLARSHIP LIST**

- Qualifying programs for the scholarship are those at the associate's level and below or other programs, up to and including bachelor programs, that are 4 semesters or 6 quarters in length.
  - Qualifying programs must directly relate to high-need occupations.
  - Students must be enrolled in a qualifying certificate or degree program at a ND institution.
  - Recipients must live in ND and work within ND for 3 years following program completion to retain the scholarship.
  - *You can view the scholarship list, the high-need occupations, and qualifying programs here: [SCHOLARSHIP High Need and Emerging Occupations List](#)*
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### **LOAN REPAYMENT LIST**

- Individuals must be newly hired to work in ND in one of the high-need occupations on the list.
- Qualifying applicants must have completed a program of study and hold a student loan balance.
- Recipients must live within ND and work within ND in a high-need occupation to qualify.
- *You can view the high-need occupations for loan repayment here: [LOAN REPAYMENT High-Need and Emerging Occupations List](#)*