

Members of the committee. My name is Todd Beard, Senator from Williston District 23. I am also an employee of TrainND NW of Williston. I am here to speak on SB 2122.

When TrainND was first proposed and came into being as Workforce Development, it was set up in four regions attached to junior colleges in the four regions. The funding for these regions was set up in two segments as follows; 50% to be split equally and 50% split based on number of businesses within the region. This worked in the beginning because there was an unknown as to the costs involved and how many businesses would be assisted in their training needs which could require additional workforce to meet those needs. That was over twenty years ago. As years have gone by The TrainND model was classified under workforce development but the formula for distribution of funds has never changed.

The bill before you would change the formula to recognize the sheer number of people trained requiring additional training and support staff. There are years of data to draw from to show what has been accomplished. My proposal for splitting the funding is to keep the first 50% the same, split between the regions evenly. The remaining 50% would be a 10%/40% split. 10% would be split by percentage according to number of businesses in the region to assist with support and development staff needed to assist with training needs. The 40% then would be split by percentage of number of people trained in the previous biennium to assist with costs of training and support staff needed in meeting the training needs within the region.

I believe this would be a fair distribution of funds allowing for growth and expansion of services.

I ask for a Do Pass vote and will try to answer any questions you may have.

Thank You

Senator Todd Beard