



Chair, House Education and Environment Division
March 10, 2025

Regarding support for SB2019

Dear Chairman Nathe and Members of the House Education & Environment Division Appropriations Committee,

My name is Patrick Mineer, the CEO and Founder of Golden Path Solutions, a corporation based in Fargo, ND. **I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2019**, supporting the ND Department of Career & Technical Education and their efforts to prepare our students for their future.

Through our work across the state of North Dakota CTE teachers, work-based learning coordinators, career advisors, counselors, and administrators, we have seen firsthand how incredibly important CTE is to the development of North Dakota's workforce, and ultimately to the North Dakota economy and future success. Career & Technical Education touches literally every career, from construction to manufacturing to engineering to healthcare to education to computer science. Not one career that is important for North Dakota's future workforce is not touched in some way by CTE.

But CTE doesn't only happen in the classroom or in school buildings. CTE delivers valuable experiences to students outside of the classroom, whether it be with Career & Technical Student Organizations like DECA, TSA, or SkillsUSA, or through work-based learning (WBL) experiences that connect students to employers for high school experiences that can lead to future careers. WBL is becoming so important to the future of education that ACTE has created a division focused solely on work-based learning nationwide. North Dakota is leading the charge when it comes to the systematic support of WBL through WBL coordinators, systems like ours and RUPrepare.ND.gov to help manage WBL processes, and training across the state for both educators, students, and employers on the value of WBL.

In supporting this bill, I hope you will also consider the incremental funding ask to keep this momentum going, allowing for incremental WBL coordinators on top of what was added in the last legislative session. These WBL coordinators are on the front line of workforce development. Investing in these positions will help this program and ND CTE deliver on the goal all of us are striving for – developing a future workforce that will take North Dakota into the future.

I urge you to support SB2019 and provide incremental investment that if spent on today's youth will help drive the economic success of our state in the years to come.

Patrick Mineer
CEO & Founder
Golden Path Solutions
patrick@goldenpath.net
701-866-2620
www.goldenpath.net
Fargo, ND