



**Testimony**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1265**  
**March 17, 2025**

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee. The Valley Prosperity Partnership (VPP) is a membership organization led by business executives – joined by economic development, chamber of commerce, and higher education leaders – to advance and advocate for shared strategic economic development opportunities for the Red River Valley region and for North Dakota.

The VPP supports House Bill 1265's establishment of a state information technology research center to conduct exploratory, transformational, and innovative research to promote the development of data science, data analysis, software engineering, and advanced information technology in the state.

This research center is very important for North Dakota to remain competitive in key sectors of our economy and is vital for innovation in economic opportunities yet to come. The VPP is particularly in support of efforts to:

1. Assist in the development of advanced technology solutions, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, digital literacy, and cybersecurity initiatives.
2. Encourage the establishment of data centers in the state to enhance advanced technology products and initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

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