



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
SB 2239
Senate Workforce Development
Chair Mike Wobbema
January 30, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Laura Mehrer, and I am the Government Affairs Specialist for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of Senate Bill 2239.

In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership, 70% of respondents indicated they were having trouble hiring employees. Labor availability has been identified as the top business concern facing companies in North Dakota.

Because of this, we support resources for the implementation of career exploration programs, such as apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning to cultivate workforce attraction and retention.

SB 2239 would establish an apprenticeship grant program that would increase access for a variety of individuals. The funding would assist individuals with initial start-up costs that can be high and may be a barrier.

We hope that you will strengthen North Dakota's business climate by investing in workforce development strategies. Thank you for your consideration.