

**House Appropriations
HB1431**

February 1, 2021

Chairman Delzer and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support for HB1431.

Section 11 of HB1431 would provide funds to the Department of Career and Technical Education to grant funds with the intent to expand Career and Technical Education, specifically for buildings and equipment. Currently the state of North Dakota has ten area career and technology centers, providing CTE in a variety of ways, either face to face or virtually via online or the state Interactive Television or ITV system. Five of the centers are considered brick and mortar centers as most of the method of delivery is face-to face. Five are virtual, meaning they lack a central physical space. They provide their coursework either online or through ITV, but all provide some face-to-face instruction as well. Eight of our area career and technology centers provide some level of virtual career and technical education, either via online or interactive television (ITV). Students that take face to face CTE courses through a center are either being bussed into the center, satellite sites or have traveling teachers. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has proven there is a place for online education, many programs are incredibly difficult, if not impossible to provide 100% virtually. The ten centers serve approximately one hundred school districts and provided instruction to around 6000 students in the 2019-20 school year.

Although our centers do an excellent job, there are gaps within our state, not just in access to a CTE center, but also the programming our existing centers are able to provide. Every student in the state does have access to Career and Technical Education as state statute does require schools to offer CTE. Our comprehensive high schools also do a phenomenal job offering CTE, either by providing it themselves or utilizing an area career and technology center. The benefit though of a center is a center is able to scale programs that most of our schools are unable to. A prime example is a health careers program, offered by the Roughrider Area Career and Technology Center out of Hebron. A few health careers teachers can serve all twelve of the member schools. This is just one example the partnership of a center and the efficiency it can provide.

I am here to state the Department of Career and Technical Education is here to partner with the Legislative Assembly to continue to expand access to more CTE programs, through the development and expansion of centers and our programs offered through our high schools.

This concludes my testimony and I am here to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.