



1 **HB 1135 – Eligibility for the ND CTE and ND Academic Scholarships - NDCEL Testimony**
2 **in Support**

3 **January 13, 2021**

4 Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee – My name is Dr. Russ Ziegler,
5 and I am the assistant director for the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders. I am testifying
6 today in support of HB 1135.

7 NDCEL is in support of the changes requested for the ND CTE and Academic Scholarships with
8 this bill. Over the past few years, the education community has been on the road to
9 competency/proficiency based grading and this bill will not punish a student who chooses to take
10 part in those innovative programs. Since this bill is also limited to those schools who have been
11 approved for the innovation waiver they have been vetted by the NDDPI.

12 This year has taught the education community many things – such as the pros and cons to on-line
13 learning, that students and teachers will rise to the challenges that are placed in front of them, and
14 that often change is required and if done right it does not have to be feared. I believe that education
15 has grown leaps and bounds because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. One of these areas is that students
16 can learn outside of the classroom and not necessarily in a brick and mortar building. For
17 graduation requirements they may not be a set course for students to follow. There are other
18 courses that are more engaging and interesting to some students than others. In other words, there
19 are multiple ways for a student to gain what is needed to be college and career ready. This world
20 has never been and will never be a one size fits all container. This bill allows for students to travel
21 different paths and still receive the acknowledgement and rewards that they so deserve.

22 NDCEL encourages you to have a do pass on this bill.

23 Thank you for your time.