



NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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March 16, 2023

To the Honorable Michael Wobbema and Member Senators of the Workforce Development Committee

RE: House Bill 1382; Scholarships for registered apprenticeship program participants.

Representing workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential construction industries from foundation to finish, we are committed to promoting, recruiting, and developing careers for all workers in the skilled trades in North Dakota. Construction is a rewarding career, and we are fully committed to passing this industry along to younger generations. Utilizing an apprenticeship program is the primary means to achieve this goal, and as such, we are in support of HB 1382.

A Registered Apprenticeship Program is a post-secondary educational model that combines hands-on training with classroom instruction. All registered programs in North Dakota are the through the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. This entity ensures the content of any registered program in the state is equitable to any other program across the country for the apprentice.

Registered Apprenticeship Programs provide apprentices with a low-cost education while also being employed in a tiered system of wages based off of percentages of the Journey Worker classification. However, since apprentices are just starting out, many times, they need items such as school supplies, tools of the trade, educational materials, among other items for their apprenticeship. Being able to utilize a scholarship to offset their educational investment will go a long way to recruiting and retaining apprentices in the construction industry.

It is; therefore, the North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council is in support of HB 1382 and urges for a Do Pass recommendation.

Sincerely, I am

Jason Ehlert
President