

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1382
SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

March 16, 2023

By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director of School Approval and Opportunity

701-328-2244

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Wobbema and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of HB 1382.

HB 1382 does not change the requirements for earning the Academic, CTE, or North Dakota Scholarship. The bill simply provides an additional option that students can pursue to use the scholarship money that they have earned. When the Academic and CTE Scholarships were first created in 2009, it was limited to coursework at a college or university. However, many career pathways that students choose require training after high school outside of a 2-year or four-year college or university. SB 2136 of the 2021 legislative session acknowledged this by expanding scholarship usage to include accredited career schools, such as a hair design school or welding school. HB 1382 builds on the fact that not all career pathways involve a college degree, allowing students to use the scholarship that they earned for an apprenticeship program that is aligned with their chosen career pathway.

NDDPI fully supports HB 1382 to provide students that have earned the state scholarship with additional opportunities that are meaningful and aligned to their career interests.

Chairman Wobbema and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.