

TESTIMONY



FEBRUARY 16, 2023

SB 2170 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Kayla Pulvermacher and I represent the members of the North Dakota Association of Builders. NDAB stands in opposition of SB 2170.

NDAB believes that we as a state must increase our efforts on workforce development so that we may continue to provide affordable homes in North Dakota. In order to further expose students to our industry, we support efforts that will allow for businesses to bring students onto the worksite.

That said, we cannot in good faith support the bill before us. Simply passing a law on the state level that allows our members to bring students onto worksites does not negate the liability resulting from diminution of federal law.

Although this bill may not be the answer to our workforce challenges, we can use it as a vehicle to pull all of the resources the state has together, and to learn more about the obstacles that are still hindering further development of the trade's workforce. I would urge the committee to consider turning this bill into a study on how the state of North Dakota could work to provide more incentives, curriculums, and opportunities for those interested in the construction industry. And with career centers establishing a statewide presence, there has never been a better time to ascertain their best utilization.

Thank you, chairman and members of the committee, for your time this morning.