

Proponent Testimony of HB 2138
For the Senate Education Committee

March 8, 2023
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Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 2138 on behalf of reimbursement for certifications to school districts.

I am Jennifer Wieberg, a counselor and the career and technical education coordinator for Deerfield Schools. I wanted to share our why with you today. Several of our students are seeking out the opportunity to get certifications within the excel in CTE courses with Garden City Community College. In the past two years we have had small senior classes that have gotten their welding certifications and CNA's with excel in CTE. However our enrollment is growing and we have larger classes coming up and there is a wide variety of interests and some that are outside of the certifications that can be received through this program.

It is our goal in Deerfield to have every student graduate with a certification in the field or pathway of their interest that will help them be more successful and give them a "leg up" in getting hired in their field of interest. We are a small rural school so certifications in agriculture and machinery are really important for our job market and these certifications are not covered by any education program. As the enrollment in Deerfield grows our goal of making sure students have a certification will come with a larger price tag every year. We will always do what is right and best for all students. We would just like to not have to take funds from other activities or departments to make this goal a reality.

Thank you for your time and I will stand for any questions.