

May 10, 2022

Representative Connie Bernardy  
Chair, Higher Education Finance  
and Policy Committee  
563 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator David Tomassoni  
Chair, Higher Education Finance  
and Policy Committee  
328 Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Conference Committee on House and Senate Versions of H.F. 3872**

Dear Conference Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.F. 3872, the Higher Education Policy and Supplemental Appropriations Bill. As Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), I appreciate your consideration.

The department has concerns with the new Skills Path Program created in the Senate version of H.F. 3872. We agree that engaging young people through career exposure, career readiness, and, where appropriate, employment-based training are important to informing career path decisions. The department has significant concerns, however, with employing young people in hazardous occupations and alternatively supports safe training opportunities where student learning and career exposure, rather than production, is the focus.

Instead of a new Skills Path Program, the department urges the conference committee to reconsider the Governor's recommendation for the Dual-Training Pipeline program to train individuals in high-wage, high-skill, in-demand careers. The Governor's proposal would increase grant funds by \$2 million each fiscal year and add childcare and transportation as eligible industries within Dual-Training Pipeline. DLI currently supports this employer-led, dual training model by developing competency standards and hosting industry forums in the industries of advanced manufacturing, agriculture, health care, and IT. Dual-Training Pipeline helps employers recruit and retain skilled employees by pairing on-the-job training with related instruction.

The Legislature could also consider additional funding for the Youth Skills Training program which offers safe, healthy and meaningful work experience to 16- and 17-year-old student learners, and registered apprenticeship as recommended by the Governor. These existing workforce development programs successfully prepare individuals for in-demand careers and warrant expansion. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,



Roslyn C. Robertson  
Commissioner

cc: Representative Shelly Christensen  
Representative Ginny Klevorn

Representative Bernardy and Senator Tomassoni

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Representative Heather Keeler

Representative Marion O'Neill

Senator Jason Rarick

Senator John Jasinski

Senator Karin Housley

Senator Gregory Clausen