



WorkForce Development Board

Jobs for People, People for Jobs.

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March 5, 2024

Representative Jay Xiong
Workforce Development Finance and Policy
557 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for H.F. 3194 – Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot

Dear Chair Xiong,

On behalf of the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board, we want to thank you for the opportunity to express our support for H.F. 3194 (Tabke) to create a Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarship Pilot for Scott County.

This pilot program, will help in bridging the skills gap in Scott County while addressing the needs of the local job market. In addition, through the Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation’s continued efforts to help the underserved populations in the community, this program will help alleviate barriers, including financial burdens associated with post-secondary education costs, while also securing current and future career pathways for individuals to succeed.

The Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation are also working with area post-secondary institutions to bring tailored training programs into Scott County to help eliminate transportation costs for underserved individuals – as there are not currently any post-secondary institutions located within Scott County.

This program, if appropriated, will have a profound and positive impact on underserved communities, the local workforce, and businesses throughout Scott County, and can become a model for other communities in the State of Minnesota to model their initiatives after.

We strongly urge your support for H.F. 3194 and appreciate the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mike Forbord
Chair, Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board

cc: Travis Reese
Bonnsy Vue