



*1 Mendota Road West, #170 – West St. Paul, MN 55118  
(651) 554-5633*

March 11, 2024

Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Chair  
Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee  
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for S.F. 3223 – Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot

Dear Chair Champion,

On behalf of the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board, we want to thank you for the opportunity to express our support for S.F. 3223 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 S.F. 3223 and appreciate the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mike Forbord  
Chair, Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board

cc: Tom Melton  
Spencer Johnson  
Tim Zunker