

**Senate Bill 2198**  
**Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**Senator Holmberg, Chairman**  
**January 26, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations committee, I am Julie Traynor, Director of the Dakota Nursing Program Consortium. I am providing information in support of Senate Bill 2198 and ask that you give this bill a Do Pass recommendation.

This bill will put money in the Department of Commerce budget to support stabilization of the nursing workforce effort. The Department of Commerce will then fund the ND Center for Nursing to do this work. The Center for Nursing is a valuable resource in ND. They are experts in conducting research regarding the nursing workforce.

Many of us have heard anecdotal stories regarding nurses burning out and leaving our ND medical facilities. The Center for Nursing can get hard numbers and then analyze that research. They also have a nationwide network and access to information on how other states are implementing change to strengthen the nursing workforce. We can build on this and also make innovative changes that work for North Dakota.

The Center for Nursing works with all of the nursing organizations in the state. It is a shining example of nurses collaborating and working toward larger interests such as nursing recruitment and retention, education, and other topics that impact the health of ND citizens. The work of the Center for Nursing is well respected by the nursing education and practice nurses.

It will be very important in the upcoming years to have the infrastructure needed to recruit and retain nurses in ND. I am happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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