



Testimony: 2021 SB 2084
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 6, 2021

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in opposition to 2021 Senate Bill 2084. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.

We oppose adding the words, 'if below capacity' to the North Dakota Century Code. NDHA does not support the State Hospital having the ability to turn away individuals that require treatment based on capacity. Private hospitals do not have this ability. These hospitals cannot turn away individuals that present to their emergency rooms.

We need to shift our focus on why the state hospital exceeds capacity. NDHA would support resources needed at the State Hospital to eliminate this concern. Patients, private hospitals, law enforcement, and the community need a safety net hospital.

Thank you. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association