SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
SB 2133

Testimony of Jay Metzger, PA-C
North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants
January 19, 2021

Chairman Lee, Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Jay Metzger. I am a physician assistant (PA) and current president of the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants (NDAPA). The NDAPA supports SB 2133; however, requests that PAs also be included as supervising providers for EMS personnel along with physicians and advanced practice nurses.

PAs are well qualified and trained in the medical model, similar to physicians but in a condensed form, and include all the areas that are outlined in the bill. PAs serve in many of the communities that these services could be offered. Many PAs, including myself, are former paramedics or EMTs and know the intricacies of EMS and how the system best serves patients. PAs that serve as a supervising provider for community paramedics and other EMTs would also help alleviate the strain on many of our physician colleagues that are already pulled in many directions for their expertise.

The services outlined in this bill will be of much benefit to the citizens of North Dakota, especially those that are underserved and/or in rural communities.

Our ability to provide adequate follow-up assessments and care is often limited

due to transportation issues, patient compliance, and the availability of clinic

appointments. Assessments provided by community paramedics, advanced

practice EMTs, and EMTs will help fill a void in the ongoing medical care of our

citizens.

Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I,

and the members of the NDAPA ask for your support and a DO PASS on SB 2133

with the amendment including PAs that has been provided.

Thank you for your time.

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