



Testimony
SB 2060
Industry, Business, and Labor Committee
January 11, 2021

Chair Klein and members of the Committee,

I am the State Director of External Affairs for Planned Parenthood North Central States. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 2060, specifically the ability to deny a chiropractic license because the applicant was previously “engaged in the practice of abortion.”

Planned Parenthood provides health services, advocacy, and education including expert reproductive health care for more than 100,000 patients each year across our five-state region. 60% of patients at our Moorhead clinic are residents of North Dakota. We have tens of thousands of activists and supporters throughout the state including interns located at major college campuses in the state. Our education team reaches more than 500 people each year through programming, trainings, and community presentations. Planned Parenthood is here to ensure all people have the information and the means to make free and responsible decisions about whether and when to have children; our mission affirms human rights to reproductive health care and freedom.

If approved, SB 2060 would limit job prospects and career advancement for residents of North Dakota and those considering a move to this state. This bill would now allow the board to deny an application for a chiropractor’s license simply because the applicant was previously “engaged in the practice of abortion.” The language in this provision is vague and overbroad, and could prevent nurses, interns, doulas, or other clinic volunteers from seeking licensure as a chiropractor. Furthermore, this bill could limit the pool of potential chiropractors by impeding people who worked or were otherwise involved with reproductive health clinics or hospitals in other states from obtaining a chiropractor’s license.

Whether a person was involved with the provision of abortion has no bearing on their ability to serve as a qualified chiropractor. But this bill ignores that fact and would limit professional opportunities for those who were previously involved in providing necessary, comprehensive reproductive health care.

The Planned Parenthood Action Fund urges the Committee to remove page 10, line 3: “engaged in the practice of abortion” from the grounds for “denial of licensure, revocation, or suspension of license or other action of the board” found in Section 43-06-15 of the North Dakota Century Code. Thank you.

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