

1 **TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOGUE IN SUPPORT OF SB 2249**

2 **SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

3 **FEBRUARY 10, 2023**

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5 Good morning Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce  
6 Development Committee. My name is David Hogue. I am a North Dakota state  
7 senator representing District 38, which includes northwest Minot and the city of  
8 Burlington. I appear before your committee to seek support for Senate Bill 2249.

9 SB 2249 is a bill that belongs squarely before your committee because it seeks  
10 to promote our state's workforce. Senate Bill 2249 seeks to determine whether we can  
11 enhance our workforce by streamlining the process by which non-residents are admitted  
12 to practice their profession in North Dakota and whether we can streamline the  
13 continuing education requirements for licensed professionals so that they might devote  
14 more time to serving as professionals.

15 SB 2249 is a comprehensive approach compared to what we as a legislature  
16 have tried to do in previous sessions. Recall several sessions ago we required prompt  
17 licensure for trailing spouse of airmen and air women at our two active duty air bases.  
18 That was successful attempt to encourage licensing boards to expedite the licensure  
19 process. I introduced this bill because there is much more to be done. Why limit  
20 expediting licensees to trailing spouses? They represent a small fraction of the  
21 individuals who relocate to North Dakota and wish to practice their profession here.

1           If we are going to make meaningful progress on our workforce, I believe we  
2 should implement a comprehensive approach to licensing out of state individuals across  
3 all trades and professions. So how do we do that?

4           I think we start with a dialogue with all of the state licensing boards. SB 2249,  
5 with the proposed amendments would require the North Dakota Labor Commission to  
6 hold meetings with all licensing boards. The meetings would allow the Commissioner to  
7 analyze each specific board's requirements for licensing out of state professionals to  
8 determine how that process could be expedited. I am attaching to my testimony a copy  
9 of an article about the state of Arizona's universal licensing requirements. The article  
10 also shows a map of US states and there "level" of universal licensing requirements. As  
11 you might observe, North Dakota is not one of the states that recognizes universal  
12 licensing requirements.

13           The second area of discussion that SB 2249 directs the Labor Commissioner to  
14 have with licensing boards relates to continuing education requirements for licensed  
15 professionals. In my view, this is an area that should be examined for its ability to  
16 positively impact workforce development. Let me explain.

17           As we have discussed during this session, one way to improve our workforce  
18 numbers is attract more workers from out of state. A second way is to incent existing  
19 residents into the workforce by, among other things, helping to pay a portion of the child  
20 care so that workers can enter and stay in the work force without losing money.

21           A third way is to make workers who are in the workforce more productive.  
22 Governor Burgum has highlighted automation as a way of making workers and

1 employers more productive. SB 2249 asks for a review of continuing education  
2 requirements as a way to improve worker productivity.

3           What I feel is missing from continuing education is a one size fits all approach.  
4 There are four states and a US territory that do not have continuing education for my  
5 profession, attorneys. Those states are Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, South  
6 Dakota, D.C.

7           The nursing profession is another where continuing education is going away as a  
8 requirement of licensure. They are: Arizona, Colorado (employers may have  
9 requirements), Indiana (employers may have requirements), Maine, Maryland  
10 (employers may have requirements), Missouri, Oregon (one time 7-hour pain  
11 management CE), Wisconsin; Wyoming—No requirements for nurses working full time.  
12 Missouri no state requirement. South Dakota has no state requirement. Oregon has  
13 one time 7 hour pain management course.

14           Other states continue to lift continuing education requirements for a broad range  
15 of professions. I am not providing a comprehensive list but, Maine, as an example,  
16 exempts physical therapy. Five states exempts continuing education for electricians.  
17 They are Tennessee, Arizona, Missouri, Mississippi, and West Virginia. As I said, I am  
18 not providing an exhaustive list.

19           Chairman Wobbema and members of the committee, I will try to answer your  
20 questions. I urge your support of SB 2249.

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