



## **House Agriculture Committee**

### **SB 2193**

**March 13, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and Committee Members, I'm Courtney Koebele and I serve as Executive Director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA opposes the penalties provided in SB 2193.

The NDMA Policy Forum recently passed a policy opposing the criminalization of medical practice. This policy states as follows:

NDMA should take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that evidence-based medical decision-making and treatment, exercised in accordance with evidence-based standards of care, does not become a violation of criminal law.

SB 2193 provides that a physician who violates this section is guilty of an infraction for a first offense and a class B misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

NDMA believes a penalty such as this creates undue stress on the healthcare provider, who already carries a great deal of weight, assuring patients' needs are met. This is particularly concerning when the documentation process risks unintentionally relying on incorrect information, resulting in an unintentional violation of the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I would be happy to answer any questions.