

2025 SB2286
House Education Committee
Representative Heinert, Chairman
March 11, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee

I am Dr Scott Knutson, an emergency physician and Chief of Staff at Trinity Health. I ask your support of a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2286.

In this request, you have an opportunity to further train and equip the next generation of healthcare workers for our state. In my role at Trinity Health I can tell you that there is no greater strain on health systems today than the need for workforce support in physicians, nurses, technicians and all health care workers. Throughout our state bed capacity any given night is limited not by physical space but by staffing. Boarding is a term that applies to admitted patients waiting in the ER for a hospital bed or transfer to open up. Before Covid, it was a term that was rarely used in ND. Today it is an everyday occurrence in our ERs. Any given night we may not have a mental health bed in our state for a patient. And it stretches beyond nursing, it involves PT, OT, radiology students, and all levels of ancillary staff. The demand exceeds the capacity.

Further, we find ourselves in medicine again contemplating the application of new technology. Capable training facilities for a well trained workforce of health care partners is imperative, as future clinicians will need to be fully equipped to navigate the technology for the benefit of our patients.

We have an opportunity to create collaborative space adjacent to the medical school, a space that will foster teamwork and integration in training, provide opportunity to expand simulation and further tech resources and applications.

We need the workforce that this investment in education promises. I urge your consideration and DO PASS recommendation for SB 2286.

Respectfully submitted,

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