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HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND LABOR COMMITTEE MARCH 10, 2025

TESTIMONY OF NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE SENATE BILL NO. 2042

Chair Warrey, members of the Committee, I'm Sandra DePountis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Board of Medicine, appearing on behalf of the Board to present Senate Bill 2042, relating to background checks.

The North Dakota Board of Medicine has four professions under its jurisdiction: physicians, physician assistants, genetic counselors, and naturopathic doctors. Currently, the law only allows for background checks of physicians and physician assistants. In fulfilling its mission to protect the health and safety of the public, and to thoroughly vet health care practitioners before they provide health care services to the citizens of North Dakota, the Board is requesting authority to obtain background checks for all professions under its jurisdiction.

This bill adds the same language found in the physician and physician assistant practice act to the practice acts of naturopathic doctors (section 2) and genetic counselors (section 3). The Board worked with BCI on the language of the bill for uniformity and conformance (section 1 updates BCI's chapter).

Thank you for your time and attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.