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To House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2217,

As many of you may know, the workforce issue, specifically related to dentistry, has been very difficult the last few years. The North Dakota Dental Board has done a wonderful job of doing the best they can to help mitigate this. They have assisted with workforce issues as best as possible, while also ensuring that the safety of the public is always of utmost importance. Updating these Statutes is important. They will help the Board be more efficient and also make some changes that will be beneficial to both the dentist and the public.

We had the privilege of hosting the executive Director of the Board, David Schaibley, at one of our recent Study Clubs here in Williston. He walked us through some current, past, and ongoing board regulations for us to better understand them, which I believe, then really benefits the public. It was refreshing to have such open and honest interaction with someone from the board that allowed many of our members to ask difficult questions they maybe would have never asked in another setting. It was a great experience for us all.

The new rules that took effect October 1, 2024 have been instrumental in allowing us to more efficiently, while also safely, treat patients in our office. They have helped streamline some very important rules that then allow us to help recruit and retain staff. Dental assisting staff in particular have benefited greatly. Many would have had to travel long distances and spend a considerable amount of money to gain the experience and knowledge we can provide them from in-person and online training.

I urge you to continue the positive effects the Board has been doing by helping pass this Bill.

I sincerely appreciate your time Senators,

*Jeremy Messer DMD*