

1   **TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOGUE IN SUPPORT OF SB 2395**

2   **HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS & LABOR COMMITTEE**

3   **ROOM JW 327C; 9:30 AM**

4   **March 19, 2025**

5

6           Good morning Chairman Warrey and members of the House Industry, Business,  
7 and Labor Committee. My name is David Hogue. I am a North Dakota state senator  
8 representing District 38, which includes northwest Minot and the city of Burlington. I  
9 appear before your committee to seek support for Senate Bill 2395.

10           SB 2395 is the progression of a bill your committee approved last session, SB  
11 2249 (68<sup>th</sup> legislative assembly). Recall last session that we approved SB 2249 to  
12 direct the ND Labor Commissioner to conduct a review of all of the North Dakota's  
13 licensing boards and assess whether there were practices that unreasonably delayed or  
14 hindered the licensure of qualified professionals to practice their chosen vocation in the  
15 state of North Dakota. Then Commissioner Nathan Svihovec conducted the study and I  
16 have brought a copy of his study with me.

17           From Commissioner's Svihovec's study we crafted SB 2395. SB 2395 is aimed  
18 at improvement of our work force. It improves the workforce by ensuring that all of our  
19 licensing boards our brought up to a baseline of processing licensee applications in a  
20 manner that serves the applicant, the licensing board, and the state of North Dakota.

21           If you review the written testimony from other witnesses you will observe that SB  
22 2395 has broad and overwhelming support from the larger licensing boards, including

1 the board of nursing, the board of pharmacy, the board of medical examiners, and the  
2 board of accountants. I think part of the reason for such broad support is that these  
3 licensing boards are already implementing many of the practices that SB 2395  
4 suggests. As of my review last evening, there was no opposition testimony to SB 2395  
5 after it crossed over to the House. The North Dakota Board of Accountancy which  
6 previously opposed the bill now supports it.

7 After the definitions section, SB 2395 outlines the relevant provisions for issuing  
8 a professional license to an applicant. These are the criteria that most licensing boards  
9 adhere to.

10 The next section, entitled "Board operations" sets down a standard that a license  
11 should be issued in 10 business days to those applicants who submits a clean  
12 application. The operations section contains several other requirements that I would  
13 invite former Commissioner Svihovec to explain in greater detail.

14 Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to try to answer any questions, but our former  
15 labor commissioner, Nathan Svihovec, is the expert.

16 Chairman Warrey and committee members, I urge a do pass recommendation on  
17 SB 2395.