

Date: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

To: House Political Subdivisions Committee

From: Ashley Wolf, North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners

Subject: Support for SB 2071

Chairman Longmuir, Vice Chairman Fegley and committee members, my name is Ashley Wolf, and I am a Board member of the North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners.

I am here to introduce Senate Bill 2071 to the Committee.

Section 1 of the bill adds authority for the Board to set fees for the provision of a duplicate license and to impose a fee for technology services. Finally, the bill also provides the Board with the general authority to adopt administrative rules.

The purpose of the additional fees is twofold. The first reason is to cover the cost for supplies, production and postage for a duplicate wall certificate. We have had an increase in duplicate wall certificates from licensees as licensees may have more than one office location. It is standard practice to have a wall certificate showing the license type, license number and effective date of the license in counselor's office(s). The proposed fee for a duplicate certificate has not yet been determined but may range anywhere from \$20-\$50.

The proposed technology fee is to assist in covering the cost and continued maintenance for a cloud-based licensing system for the Board. The system would allow for data to be stored, accessed as needed by board members, allow for communication with licensees, generate reports, allow for community members and insurance companies to complete online license verifications, provide a necessary upgrade for applying, processing and issuing licenses. Our society has shifted away from paper-based applications and to electronic applications; securing a cloud-based

licensing system would increase efficiency in processing applications and ease the application process for applicants. Additionally, securing a cloud-based system will assist our board in meeting the requirements for the Counseling Compact that was passed during the 68th legislative session. The technology fee may range from \$50-\$100 per licensee; licenses are renewed every other year. Our board has projected to have 1,000+ licensees for 2025-2026.

The Board would request vote in favor of Senate Bill 2071. With that I would stand for any questions.

Sincerely,

Ashley Wolf, Layperson

North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners

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