

Senator Brad Bekkedahl

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**COMMITTEES:** Appropriations (Chair)

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Senate Bill 2211 Testimony House Political Subdivisions Committee Hon. Donald Longmuir, Chairman

Chairman Longmuir and Committee Members,

I'm Senator Brad Bekkedahl and I am here to introduce Senate Bill 2211, a bill to revise the current Attorney Recruitment program. This program started two sessions ago with a bill to provide incentives for up to four attorneys to practice in rural counties and communities that had a lack of professionals. Last session the program was so successful that it was expanded to eight attorney positions. As you can see, the program involves financial participation by the Judicial Branch, the local jurisdiction (County or City), and the State Bar Association. At the request of the State Bar Association and the Judicial Branch, this bill seeks to add a Retention component to the program. The number of attorneys eligible for these incentives remains at up to eight with this change. This is a successful program that has yielded positive benefits to the area's most in need of these service providers. I will let the other partners in this program testify and answer questions if needed. I respectfully request a Do Pass on SB 2211 and stand now for any questions.

