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COMMITTEES:
Appropriations (Chair)

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Senate Bill 2273 Testimony

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Hon. Representative Donald Longmuir, Chairman

Chairman Longmuir and Committee Members,

My name is Brad Bekkedahl, Senator from District 1 in Williston. I am here today to introduce SB2273, a bill that builds upon privileges previously granted to the Physical Therapy profession in the 2021 Legislative session. With that bill, Physical Therapists with a Doctoral degree or with specialized imaging training were allowed to order flat image radiographs while providing care to their patients. This bill seeks to expand that privilege to diagnostic imaging, including Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computer Tomography scans (CT). As you will learn from the professional testimony following me today, there are many reasons to support this expansion of patient care. There are also several other states that currently grant this privilege, including our neighbor Montana. My main reason for the first bill submission in 2021 was to improve patient care. I personally experienced this with PT care for a leg injury where during the course of 14 treatment sessions, my therapist wanted to have a new image taken to adjust the care plan. Prior to the 2021 legislation passage, I had to go back to my physician for a referral to get the x-ray, resulting in a 4 week pause to my weekly treatment schedule. That gave me a firsthand experience that properly educated and trained Physical Therapists could make my treatment more seamless while providing optimal care with this privilege. This bill offers the same efficiency, less lost time for treatment, and more optimal care to the patient. I appreciate your taking my testimony today and your consideration of SB 2273. I will stand for questions and please allow me to refer to the professionals here to testify if needed. Please recommend a Do Pass on SB2273.

