



**2025 HB 1064**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Todd Beard, Chairman**

**March 12, 2025**

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1064 as amended. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

The healthcare workforce shortage is acute in North Dakota, especially nursing. From small hospitals in our rural areas to the big hospitals in our major cities, our state is in a chronic healthcare workforce shortage. That is why NDHA initially opposed HB 1064. The bill, as introduced, would've prohibited some accredited online healthcare institutions from educating our North Dakota healthcare workforce. The bill, as amended, addresses our concerns, and we therefore now support HB 1064.

Online education is an important component of filling the nursing pipeline. We need more options for healthcare education, not less, and the amendments allow for accredited institutions who meet federal requirements to continue educating nurses, social workers, and counsellors in the state. We believe the talent pipeline should be fully open, and the exemption provided in this bill for accredited online institutions does just that. Online healthcare education is an important tool for our rural health systems.

In summary, we support the amended bill and hope that you give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl  
North Dakota Hospital Association