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Oral testimony

HB1600 Testimony
Brian Pappas
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Chair Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Brian Pappas and I serve as Dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law. I write in support of HB 1600.

- Attorney fees for immigration matters often cost \$15,000-20,000. Providing services at low/no cost will be beneficial for North Dakota employers who are struggling to find workers.
- The clinic will be supporting legal immigration with the purpose of supporting businesses who are unable to hire employees in areas of need.
- We have a great need for immigration attorneys in North Dakota, with only one or two practicing in the entire state. As a result, this clinic would not take business away from any practicing attorneys.
- An immigration clinic will build capacity by training future lawyers to handle immigration matters. This clinic could train 5-20 students per year with the skills they need to provide much needed services once they become lawyers.
- While the law school has multiple clinical opportunities, we do not have funding to either hire an additional clinician or to operate this clinic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB1600.