



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Kristin Roers

District 27
4378 Estate Drive South
Fargo, ND, 58104-3318
kroers@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Human Services
State and Local Government (Chair)

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Mr Chair and members of the Senate Workforce Committee:

I will start by admitting that I am not the expert on this bill - there are others here that can speak more eloquently about how this bill can work - but let me tell you how it came to my attention.

As many of you know, I spent about a year helping recruit and welcome Internationally Educated Nurses to my hospital and community - through that, I became very passionate about the processes we use to recruit and retain talent into our state - especially in the healthcare space. The first time I heard about this topic was at a conference - probably in 2021 or 2022. Then, I was invited to the North Dakota Medical Association's meetings in Fargo 2 times in 3 years - and both times, this topic has come up. The physicians in the room asked if we could pursue this process - a new way to allow for internationally educated physicians to become licensed in our state - to ensure that we adequately vet their education, but don't require them to completely redo their residency. Fast forward to the beginning of session this year and a fellow legislator approached me to see if I had capacity to prime sponsor this idea and I chose to introduce it.

Again, I am not an expert on the logistics of how this works - but I believe that we need to be creative in how we recruit new physicians into North Dakota. To ensure they are trained and safe, without erecting any unnecessary barriers to entry.