

Testimony
Senate Bill 2125 – Relating to the Health Care Professional
Student Loan Repayment Program
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 12, 2021

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

Greetings. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony.

I am Cristine Deaver, Licensed and Board Certified Behavior Analyst and member and President of the North Dakota Association for Behavior Analysis (NDABA). I have provided behavioral services within rural school settings for almost 20 year and have taught graduate level students at the University of North Dakota's Applied Behavior Analysis program for 7 years. I consult with teachers and families as we work collaboratively to serve students with behavioral needs.

I am writing in support of the Senate Bill 2125 which seeks to add Behavior Analysts to the list of professionals who may qualify for this student loan forgiveness program. Behavior Analysts are a relatively new group of licensed professionals in North Dakota. We provide services to individuals with behavioral health concerns by collaborating with the individual, care providers, and other professionals working with the individual.

I have observed a growing need for behavioral health services for individuals in North Dakota. I believe we should take steps to train, recruit and retain professionals to provide high quality care within North Dakota.

In summary, please consider approving the added language to SB 2125 for Behavior Analysts to be a recognized behavioral health profession. It is imperative to include Behavior Analysts as recognized behavioral health professionals to retain and draw more professionals to North Dakota, and ultimately, to better serve individuals within our state who struggle with behavioral health problems. By adding Behavior Analysts to the list of recognized behavioral health professions, another small but growing group of professionals may be able to further assist this growing population of individuals who require significant behavioral health care.

All opinions expressed here are my own. These opinions in no way represent the University of North Dakota nor my current place of employment. This testimony has been provided on my personal time.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. If I can be of assistance during this time of deliberation, please contact me at cdeaver@csicable.net. This concludes my testimony.

Sincerely,

Cristine Deaver, MS, BCBA, LBA
Board Certified Behavior Analyst #1-09-6409
ND Licensed Behavior Analyst #L4