



1/12/2021

Legislative Testimony – Senate Bill No. 2125

North Dakota Senate Human Services Committee

Madame Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Tim Eissinger, CEO of the Anne Carlsen Center. I am testifying today in support of Senate Bill 2125.

North Dakota faced a clinical workforce shortage well before the COVID-19 pandemic struck our state, and the pandemic's impact on the mental health of our professional workforce may only serve to exacerbate it. North Dakota's current unemployment rate hovers around 4% and would appear to show that we continue to face a shortage of qualified individuals available to meet the demand for highly skilled clinical roles.

Anne Carlsen has aggressively tried to recruit out-of-state providers to come to North Dakota, but often we get little to no response, and many we have recruited do not have the work ethic and resilience to stay. Our best strategy has been the "home grown" approach, whereby we have invested in an employee's professional education based on the needs and growth of our programs. I believe the ability to work collaboratively with the State through the proposed student loan forgiveness or repayment program gives North Dakota its best chance of fielding the professional workforce North Dakota needs now, and well into the future. It would keep North Dakota employees in the identified field's student loan debt to a manageable amount and get them started in a healthcare or related career in North Dakota that is likely to keep them in this State.

I am very much in support of this bill and would be happy to address any questions you might have.

Thank you,

Tim Eissinger

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annecarlsen.org

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