



State Bar Association of North Dakota

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Tony J. Weiler • *Executive Director*

Senate Bill 2233

Testimony of Tony J. Weiler

Senate Judiciary

January 26, 2021

Senator Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Tony Weiler, and I am the Executive Director of the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND).

SBAND is the professional association of 3,000 licensed North Dakota lawyers. On behalf of SBAND President Carrie Francis and our Board of Governors, I present this testimony in support of SB2233, the Rural Practice Bill. SBAND has seen the number of lawyers in our smaller, rural counties and communities shrink over time. We believe it is important for a community to have adequate legal representation “at home” and support this effort to move in that direction.

This legislation is patterned after a similar program in South Dakota, and that program has been very successful in getting more lawyers into that state’s rural counties.

SBAND encourages a Do Pass recommendation from the Committee.

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