



Department of Nursing

Good morning, Chairman and the House Education Committee members. My name is Amy Lee, I live in Minot, and I am the Chair of the Nursing Department at Minot State University. I support senate bill 2288, which would award matching funds dedicated to advancing academics for nursing programs. The current nursing shortage is evident throughout North Dakota, and the demand for nurses is only expected to increase in the next few years. As nursing faculty members, we are committed to educating safe and competent nurses to care for our communities. Additional resources, such as this bill, would provide scholarships and educational opportunities to support nursing education. It will also support continued workforce development with outreach and recruitment.

In nursing programs, clinical experiences in the hospital help to train and educate. However, clinical placement is often difficult to schedule because many programs use the same facility. Over the past few years, nursing programs have declined admission to eligible applicants for one of two reasons- lack of clinical accommodations or lack of qualified faculty. In 2021, the North Dakota Board of Nursing reported 200 eligible nursing applicants were declined admission in part due to these barriers. Simulation can be used to supplement clinical hour requirements in nursing programs. Unfortunately, the simulators and equipment required to create a realistic learning environment are expensive to purchase and maintain. This bill would support nursing programs with additional resources to educate and train safe nurses in labs and simulation activities.

In addition to providing quality education and experiences for our pre-licensure students, we also collaborate with local high schools to provide workforce development opportunities. Examples include an interactive escape room experience, open house tours, and a guaranteed admission program for graduates of North Dakota high schools. Additional resources, such as this bill will continue to support these efforts.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill and support nursing programs to educate the nurses of the future. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

*Amy Lee MSN, RN, CNE*