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Testimony in Support of SB 2190
House Human Services Committee

March 8, 2023

Chairman Weisz, Vice Chairman Ruby, and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the North Dakota Nurses Association (NDNA), I am writing this letter to support SB 2190 relating to the childcare assistance program.

NDNA is the only professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota. Our mission is to advance the nursing profession by promoting professional development of nurses, fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the safety and well-being of nurses in the workplace, and by advocating on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

Currently, childcare costs account for 15% to 40% of the average household budget in North Dakota, which often isn't sustainable for young working families, according to the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS)...most North Dakota communities are experiencing greater workforce shortages this year than last year, with job openings in August up 4.3% over the same month a year ago and the state's unemployment rate being the sixth lowest in the nation."¹

We support proposals that improve access to affordable and quality childcare services. To assist the nursing workforce, our families are counting on feeling secure that their children are taken care of while they are busy taking care of their patients. It's imperative for the State, healthcare providers and payers, businesses, and our community leaders to come together for sustainable solutions for the children of our nursing workforce.

We respectfully ask that you pass SB 2190.

¹ <https://www.governor.nd.gov/news/burgum-sanford-unveil-child-care-proposal-support-working-families-address-workforce>

Sincerely,

Sherri Miller, BS, BSN, RN
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Executive Director
North Dakota Nurses Association