



**2023 Senate Bill 2227**  
**House Human Services Committee**  
**Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman**  
**March 8, 2023**

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I testify in support of Senate Bill 2227 and ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

This bill restores and updates the duties and membership of the State Health Council. We believe the bill will ensure the Council is a positive partner for the State Health Officer in leading public health efforts in North Dakota. The Council would collaborate with various health officials and providers to advise the state on best public health practices and respond to public health emergencies. It ensures the coordination of the Department of Health and Human Services' health division with all other health activities of the state. And the makeup of the Council would ensure there is input from diverse stakeholders, such as tribal health, research universities, public health, and medical and long-term care facilities, so that rules which are necessary for public health would be effective and workable.

The bill clarifies that the Council would "collaborate and support", rather than "establish and enforce". In other words, it would have no enforcement authority. We support the Council as a diverse and deliberative body to inform and advise the governor, department of health and human services, legislative assembly, and North Dakotans on public health issues that are important to the needs of North Dakotans, and in the event of a public health emergency. We also support the Council's role in making recommendations for, and monitoring progress on, the state public health strategic plan and advocating for evidence-based practices and policies necessary to improve the health of North Dakotans.

NDHA requests that you give the bill a **DO PASS** recommendation. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association