

Statement of Duke de Haas on behalf of Allianz Global Assistance
North Dakota House
Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Public Hearing
March 15, 2023

Committee Members—

My name is Duke de Haas, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Allianz Global Assistance (“Allianz”), which is a large travel insurance writer and administrator headquartered in Richmond, Virginia.

Thank you for bringing SB 2173 before the Committee today. This legislation is important because it creates a framework specifically for the regulation of travel insurance—which is generally subject to the insurance laws and regulations just like any other line of insurance coverage. Existing North Dakota statutes specifically address licensing and registration of travel insurance agents and travel retailers, in line with a model law adopted by the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). SB 2173 builds on that licensing framework by codifying requirements for the sale of travel insurance, consistent with established industry practice and nearly identical model acts adopted by NCOIL and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

Many of the issues addressed in the Model Act are practices and concepts that have been widely accepted by regulators for years. The Model codifies those practices and concepts, specifically clarifying them for travel insurance so that regulators and the industry are on the same page. Going forward, the hope is that there will be no confusion as to what is permitted and required under the law.

As noted by the UStiA in its counsel's testimony, twenty-nine (29) other states have already enacted legislation based on these national Model Acts. Other states are currently considering enacting such legislation, and more are expected to follow. National, uniform legislation is very important given the nature of travel insurance. Allianz appreciated the opportunity to work with the Insurance Department on the version of SB 2173 that appears before you today and includes amendments from the Insurance Department.

We respectfully request that you approve this important legislation. Thank you again for your time and effort spent on considering the travel insurance industry and this bill.