



2023 Senate Bill 2184
House Industry Business and Labor Committee
Representative Scott Louser, Chairman
March 14, 2023

Chairman Louser and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, my name is Tim Blasl. I am the President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA) which represents hospitals and health systems across the state. I testify in support of Senate Bill 2184 and ask that you give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the bill because it could help with our number one challenge: workforce. We support a study that could lead to streamlining the licensing of foreign health care practitioners.

The scarcity of health care professionals in all disciplines - not only physicians, advanced practice providers and nurses but also medical imaging techs, physical therapists, psychologists, and many others - challenges our hospitals in both rural and urban areas. To the extent that we can make it easier and quicker for health care professionals to become licensed to work in North Dakota, without compromising public safety, it helps hospitals provide the care that patients need close to home.

I do not have the magical answer to solve the health care professional workforce shortage, but simplifying and speeding up the licensing of foreign health care professions is definitely part of the solution.

Please give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to respond to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association