

HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND LABOR COMMITTEE
MARCH 14, 2023

TESTIMONY OF
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE
SENATE BILL NO. 2184

Chair Louser, members of the Committee, I'm Sandra DePountis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Board of Medicine, appearing on behalf of the Board with neutral testimony for Senate Bill 2184 in its current form.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to continue participating in studies to share the work it does to implement an expedited licensure process while also having sufficient parameters in place to verify only qualified and competent individuals are providing health care services to the citizens of North Dakota.

The Department of Commerce's Workforce Development has undertaken the duty to study licensing boards since 2019 at which time they engaged the services of a national organization – CLEAR – to conduct a thorough examination and survey. CLEAR's report was highly positive – finding that thanks to the autonomous nature of North Dakota's licensing boards in which each board had individual laws specifically applicable to their needs, boards were processing applications timely, expedited licenses were being provided to military spouses, and "(a)ltogether, CLEAR measured North Dakota's occupational licensing environment to be efficient, well-staffed, and conducive to reform."

As a "one size fits all" model is not in the best interests for regulatory boards in North Dakota, the responsibility is therefore left on each board to continually review its laws and rules to remove inefficiencies and verify implementation of national standards

and best practices. The Board of Medicine takes this responsibility seriously and has focused this past biennium in overhauling its policies and procedures, administrative rules, and century code – to satisfy this obligation. The Board of Medicine looks forward to continuing such work and share information in a study.