

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

TESTIMONY OF
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE
SENATE BILL NO. 2249

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 in opposition to Senate Bill 2249.

The Board of Medicine is not opposed to continued studies being done on regulatory and licensing boards in the state and would welcome the chance to provide information to the Labor Commissioner on how it made strides in streamlining licensure processes and continuing education requirements this past biennium. However, the Board opposes the language in the bill that puts authority to introduce legislation with the Commissioner directly into law – arguably without the Board's concurrence or authorization.

This past biennium, the Board of Medicine engaged in an extensive review of its policies and procedures, administrative code, and century code, to identify and address any inefficient processes, outdated requirements, and redundant language, which resulted in updates for a streamlined, efficient licensure and disciplinary process, consistent with national standards and best practices. This was a big undertaking that took two years of public meetings and discussions with several constituents – including associations, firms, hospitals, the School of Medicine, licensees, applicants, and other medical boards throughout the nation. The Board's office staff, in working exclusively in processing these applications, are uniquely situated to provide information on trends,

inefficiencies, etc. to relay to the Board for proposed changes. Research was done on other jurisdiction requirements and Board members and staff attended numerous conferences, seminars, and roundtable discussions to keep apprised of national trends, updates to technology, etc. It is through this diligent, extensive work that the Board was able to propose comprehensive and thoroughly vetted legislation. This responsibility is best left to the Board which has garnered knowledge and expertise, versus an outside executive agency.

Thank you for your time and attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.