

1 **TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOGUE IN SUPPORT OF SB 2249**  
2 **HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND LABOR COMMITTEE**  
3 **MARCH 14, 2023**

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5 Good morning Chairman Louser and members of the House Industry, Business,  
6 and Labor Committee. My name is David Hogue. I am a North Dakota state senator  
7 representing District 38, which includes northwest Minot and the city of Burlington. I  
8 appear before your committee to seek support for Senate Bill 2249.

9 SB 2249 is a bill that belongs squarely before your committee because it seeks  
10 to promote our state's workforce. Senate Bill 2249 seeks to determine whether we can  
11 enhance our workforce by streamlining the process by which non-residents are admitted  
12 to practice their profession in North Dakota and whether we can streamline the  
13 continuing education requirements for licensed professionals so that they might devote  
14 more time to serving as professionals.

15 SB 2249 is a comprehensive approach compared to what we as a legislature  
16 have tried to do in previous sessions. Recall several sessions ago we required prompt  
17 licensure for trailing spouses of airmen and air women at our two active duty air bases.  
18 That was successful attempt to encourage licensing boards to expedite the licensure  
19 process. I introduced this bill because there is much more to be done. Why limit  
20 expediting licensees to trailing spouses? They represent a small fraction of the  
21 individuals who relocate to North Dakota and wish to practice their profession here.

1           If we are going to make meaningful progress on our workforce, I believe we  
2 should implement a comprehensive approach to licensing out of state individuals across  
3 all trades and professions. So how do we do that?

4           I think we start with a dialogue with all of the state licensing boards. SB 2249  
5 would direct the North Dakota Labor Commission to hold meetings with all licensing  
6 boards. The meetings would allow the Commissioner to analyze each specific board's  
7 requirements for licensing out of state professionals to determine how that process  
8 could be expedited. I am attaching to my testimony a copy of an article about the state  
9 of Arizona's universal licensing requirements. The article also shows a map of US  
10 states and there "level" of universal licensing requirements. As you might observe,  
11 North Dakota is *not* one of the states that recognizes universal licensing requirements.

12           The second area of discussion that SB 2249 directs the Labor Commissioner to  
13 have with licensing boards relates to continuing education requirements for licensed  
14 professionals. In my view, this is an area that should be examined for its ability to  
15 positively impact workforce development. Let me explain.

16           As we have discussed during this session, one way to improve our workforce  
17 numbers is attract more workers from out of state. A second way is to encourage  
18 existing residents into the workforce by, among other things, helping to pay a portion of  
19 the child care so that workers can enter and stay in the work force without losing  
20 money.

21           A third way is to make workers who are in the workforce more productive.  
22 Governor Burgum has highlighted automation as a way of making workers and

1 employers more productive. SB 2249 asks for a review of continuing education  
2 requirements as a way to improve worker productivity.

3           What I feel is problematic about our existing continuing education requirements is  
4 a one size fits all approach. There are four states and a US territory that do not have  
5 continuing education for my profession, attorneys. Those states are Maryland,  
6 Massachusetts, Michigan, South Dakota, D.C.

7           The nursing profession is another skilled profession where continuing education  
8 is going away as a requirement of licensure in many states. Those states are: Arizona,  
9 Colorado (employers may have requirements), Indiana (employers may have  
10 requirements), Maine, Maryland (employers may have requirements), Missouri, Oregon  
11 (one time 7-hour pain management CE), Wisconsin; Wyoming—No requirements for  
12 nurses working full time. Missouri no state requirement. South Dakota has no state  
13 requirement. Oregon has one time 7 hour pain management course.

14           Other states continue to lift continuing education requirements for a broad range  
15 of professions. I am not providing a comprehensive list but, Maine, as an example,  
16 exempts physical therapy. Five states exempts continuing education for electricians.  
17 They are Tennessee, Arizona, Missouri, Mississippi, and West Virginia. As I said, I am  
18 not providing an exhaustive list.

19           Chairman Louser and members of the committee, I will try to answer your  
20 questions. I urge your support of SB 2249.

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