



TESTIMONY on SB 2301
from the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS—NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
to the
ND House Industry, Business and Labor
March 7, 2023

Chairman Louser and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

The Advocacy Committee of NASW-ND submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2301. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective.

NASW-ND strongly supports SB 2301 for the following reasons:

- Our support for this bill is consistent with Section 6.04(a) of the NASW Code of Ethics which states, “Social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully.”
- In addition, our support is consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics Preamble, stating that “a historic and defining feature of social work is the profession’s dual focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society... Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals’ needs and social problems.”
- North Dakota is in a child care crisis, where there are not enough child care services to meet the demand and needs of North Dakota’s family workforce.
- In North Dakota, the median wage for child care workers was \$11.61 an hour in 2020, which is barely above the poverty level for a family of three.
- Child care workers are essential and deserve adequate wages. North Dakota needs a stable child care workforce for parents to work.
- Increased worker pay through state-supplemented wages in the child care workforce ensures North Dakota can maintain and expand access to child care across the state. It is essential for strong families and a strong economy in North Dakota and is a critical step toward increasing access to affordable, quality child care.

Results from this bill would significantly improve the North Dakota child care crisis, thereby contributing to a stronger state.

NASW-ND respectfully requests that members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee vote Do Pass on this bill.

Written by:
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Chair, NASW-ND Advocacy Committee

Submitted by:

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Executive Director, NASW-ND

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND) is a membership association representing social workers in the state of North Dakota. The mission of NASW-ND is to strengthen and protect the practice of social work in North Dakota and to advance sound and equitable social policy. Our position on this bill is solidly grounded in our organization's mission.