



**2023 Senate Bill 2389**  
**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, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I testify in support of engrossed Senate Bill 2389 and ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

I'm here today to introduce Senate Bill 2389, a bill that now seeks to study the value of standardizing the prior authorization process and aligning it with the best practices adopted throughout the country. Prior authorization is a cost-control measure that requires health care professionals to obtain health plan approval before delivery of the prescribed treatment, test, or medical service to qualify for payment.

While prior authorization can play an important role in ensuring the necessity of a health care service or prescription and containing costs, overly burdensome requirements can prevent or delay patients' access to necessary care. Overly strict prior authorization requirements also require physicians to spend inordinate amounts of time to comply with these requirements, which drives increased administrative costs and is rated as one of the top reasons for provider burnout. This is why states around the country have adopted reforms that ensure prior authorization is used judiciously, efficiently, and in a manner that prevents cost-shifting onto patients and care providers.

I would now like to introduce Lexie Huebner from Altru Health. Ms. Huebner will be testifying on our behalf. She will be providing you more details regarding prior authorization and the impacts on their facility. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association