

**Comments to the North Dakota Senate Appropriations
Education and Environment Division
Sen. Ron Sorvaag, Chair**

**Submitted by
Kris Hendrickx, Graduate Nursing Chair at the University of North Dakota
College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines**

Submitted February 6, 2023

Chair Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division:

I am writing in support of SB 2288, which would provide appropriations for the Nursing Program Matching Grants. My name is Kris Hendrickx, DNP, ACNS-BC, FLAGF. I am the chair of the graduate nursing department in the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines (CNPD) at the University of North Dakota. I have been with the CNPD for over 17 years and have helped to educate hundreds of registered and advanced practice nurses, many of whom are employed in the state of North Dakota.

The nursing workforce shortages that we are experiencing in our state require multiple levels of innovative problem-solving and collaboration among academic nursing programs, community healthcare organizations, state officials, and our institutional foundations. North Dakota's rural communities are particularly affected by nursing staffing issues and could greatly benefit from a nursing matching grant program that would help draw graduate nurses into local healthcare organizations like hospitals, public health departments, clinics and long-term care facilities.

For example, Nursing Program Matching Grants could help stimulate collaborative discussions between communities, who often have administrators who are alumni of our North Dakota academic institutions, and nursing students who may be interested in working in their local communities. Matching grant funds, for instance, could provide financial support for students to purchase nursing uniforms, textbooks and educational resources, and medical equipment-expenses that can cost over \$2,000 during the first semester of a nursing program. In addition, stipends could support student experiences in rural healthcare agencies that may not have been considered by students because of the associated travel costs. Stipends to support nursing preceptors could also be greatly beneficial as nursing programs are constantly seeking new preceptors and additional clinical placement opportunities, especially in our rural agencies, and could support nursing program growth.

Thank you for your time and attention to nursing workforce concerns and thoughtful consideration of innovative avenues to support our nursing students and our nursing academic programs.

Kris Hendrickx, DNP, ACNS, FLAGF (701-777-2403); kris.hendrickx@und.edu
Graduate Nursing Chair and Clinical Associate Professor, UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines