

Good morning, Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. I am Karla Aldinger, and I am the Unit Director of Life Safety and Construction (LSC) within the Division of Public Health at the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I am here in support of House Bill 1045 and the amendments that have been made.

The Unit of Life Safety and Construction, the North Dakota Long Term Care Association, and the North Dakota Hospital Association worked together to provide input for House Bill 1045. If circumstances were to arise where LSC cannot meet the current deadlines, the passage of this bill preserves the choice of the licensed provider to utilize the department's services, rather than using a third-party reviewer. We believe this bill appropriately addresses these rarely occurring circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.