

*Complaining about a
problem without proposing a
solution is called whining.*

-Teddy Roosevelt



Bette B. Grande
President & CEO

Chairman Judy Lee and members of the Senate Human Service committee,

My name is Bette Grande, and I am the CEO of the Roughrider Policy Center (RPC). Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB2031.

As a research and education organization, RPC has a goal to support policies that expand access, increase choice, improve quality, and reduce cost for all North Dakotans seeking healthcare. We are all fighting for more affordable medications for patients in need. However, this Bill is not the way to reach our goal. This proposal will cause more harm than good, and we urge lawmakers to reject SB 2031.

This bill would impose price controls on prescription drugs, referencing prices from Canada with significant unintended consequences. The history and experience of price controls, in whatever form, has been harmful for consumers. Imposing a cap on prescription drugs based on an entirely different healthcare system with different policies in another country would simply not work in our American free market system.

Additionally, this price cap policy will risk future innovation in the field of medicine and innovation has led to many of the breakthroughs we benefit from today. The United States is a leader in this regard, and it has allowed Americans to get the quickest and best access to new, life-saving medications. Especially during COVID-19, when we need innovative ways to combat a new virus, we cannot begin to limit our research opportunities.

For Liberty,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bette Grande". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bette Grande

Bette Grande is the CEO of the Roughrider Policy Center, North Dakotas Think Tank