



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER  
SB 2140  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Chair Judy Lee  
January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization. We stand in **opposition** of Senate Bill 2140.

Recently, GNDC partnered with the NDSU Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth to complete a survey about the business climate in North Dakota. The survey found that 37 percent of respondents felt the second highest factor negatively affecting business performance was high healthcare costs. Both healthcare mandates and price controls shift the cost to others and artificially increase the cost of care long term.

GNDC believes strongly in the free market system. This system gives strength to the consumer by encouraging companies to compete among each other for their business. Competition motivates companies to produce the products that meet the needs of the consumer at reasonable prices the market can support. This competition within the free-market system has led our nation to innovate and develop world class products at reasonable prices, all at the demand of the consumer.

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment. I respectfully urge you to reject SB 2140 and I would be happy to respond to any questions.