

Name: Madison Verghis

Date: February 6, 2023

RE: In favor of SB 2344

Introduction:

My name is Madison Verghis and I am in favor of SB 2344. As a registered nurse who also has a MPH and works in local public health, I can say firsthand how impactful this bill would be for local public health professionals.

The Need:

Most people do not go into public health to make a lot of money, however that does not impact the cost of schooling that it takes to achieve a proficient level of education that is necessary for a public health provider to have. Therefore, the cost of schooling and the salary that a public health provider can expect to make can be a barrier to getting into the field or staying in the field of public health. Covid-19 shined a light on the importance of public health and the need for well rounded, passionate and educated individuals to be at the forefront of the public's health. Passing this bill will allow those who love public health and want to dedicate their lives to it to be able to realistically get the education needed and continue to make ends meet after beginning to work. Many healthcare professionals already have access to this funding, but we are leaving a valuable population behind by not including public health professionals.

Conclusion:

Please support SB 2344 to add public health professionals as recipients for loan repayment in North Dakota. This will help to attract and keep our best people to pursue a career in public health and stay with it. Thank you.