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Senate Bill 2142 – IN SUPPORT

January 10, 2023

Chairman Larsen and Members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee:

On behalf of the North Dakota Nurses Association, I am writing this letter in support of SB 2142, relating to the creation of an office of healthcare immigration; to provide an appropriation; and to provide for a report.

The North Dakota Nurses Association is the only professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota. Our mission is to advance the nursing profession by promoting the professional development of nurses, fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the safety and well-being of nurses in the workplace, and advocating on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.

There is a shortage of direct care staff including those we represent – nurses - throughout the State of North Dakota. Healthcare facilities are trying to meet patient demand with limited success. Travel agencies are charging rates that are not financially sustainable, and administrators are searching for solutions that will stabilize the situation.

One solution has been to recruit international nurses. Bringing in international nurses is costly and time consuming, though, and the process often takes years to bring in one individual. To strategize and implement processes to support and overcome international recruitment challenges in healthcare, an office of healthcare immigration would streamline the entire process. It could reduce much of the “red tape” and ultimately, assist with a solution to North Dakota’s staffing shortages.

We urge you to support SB 2142.

Sincerely,

Sherri Miller, BSN, RN
Executive Director
North Dakota Nurses Association