

January 17, 2023

CHAIRMAN CLEMENS AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE:

Good morning. My name is Chris Kraemer. I am a private practice owner and physical therapist practicing in Fargo, ND. I am testifying on my own behalf and as a member of the American Physical Therapy Association – ND branch in support of SB 2191. This bill would add physical therapists to a list of health care professionals who can sign statements for applications for handicapped parking permits.

I have practiced in outpatient orthopedic settings for twenty-five years in North Dakota. During that time, many of my patients have needed handicapped parking passes and have asked me to sign their permit applications.

Physical therapists have a unique knowledge of their patients' physical capabilities and functional limitations and are thus sufficiently qualified to make this determination. In the past, I have had to coordinate this process with the patient's physician, which is an administrative burden and costly barrier to the timely acquisition of these permits for the patients. Often times, the physician was either located in another town or his or her appointments were three or four weeks out, making the obtainment of these permits more cumbersome than need be.

I respectfully request that you give SB 2191 a DO PASS. Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,

Chris Kraemer PT, MPT, OCS, cert. MDT, CSMT

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