

**Session:** 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, Regular Session (2023)  
**Bill:** HB 1221  
**Committee:** Senate Workforce Development Committee  
**Hearing:** Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.  
**Testimony:** Written and Oral Testimony (remote)  
**Witness:** Brian Balstad, Lobbyist for North Dakota Psychological Association

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development Committee:

My name is Brian Balstad. I am the lobbyist for the North Dakota Psychological Association (NDPA), the professional association for psychologists in the State of North Dakota. I am providing testimony on behalf of NDPA to propose an amendment to HB 1221 and to otherwise provide neutral testimony in regard to the same.

Upon reviewing HB 1221, it was noted two (2) doctoral degrees were inadvertently omitted from the definition of “health care practitioner” in regard to psychologists. Specifically, “Psy.D.” and “Ed.D.” were inadvertently omitted. It was also noted punctuation was inadvertently omitted from the abbreviation “PhD”. Therefore, NDPA respectfully proposes amending the subdivision of HB 1221 regarding psychologists, namely the “Definitions” section, subsection three, subdivision k (HB 1221 version 23.0587.02000, page 2, line 23), as follows: “Psychologists, signified by the letters “Ph.D.”, “Psy.D.”, “Ed.D.”, or the word psychologist.” NDPA is otherwise neutral in regard to HB 1221.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I stand for questions.