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**SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
NORTH DAKOTA PROFESSIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM
FEBRUARY 3, 2023
SENATE BILL NO. 2098**

Chairman Wobbema, members of the Committee, I am Ann Leiseth, Executive Director of the North Dakota Professional Health Program or NDPHP appearing in support of Senate Bill 2098 relating to the Physician Health Program (PHP).

As many of you are aware, the NDPHP was created through legislation in 2013 in order to help medical providers seek help for substance use disorders, mental illness, and physical illness confidentially.

Prior to the creation of NDPHP, these medical providers did not have confidentiality from the North Dakota Board of Medicine which obviously interfered with them seeking help. Since its inception the NDPHP has worked with more than 120 physicians, physician assistants, medical students, and physician assistant students. We work closely with the Board of Medicine as we also work with medical providers that are ordered by the Board of Medicine into our program.

The Board of Directors for the NDPHP has worked collaboratively with the Board of Medicine in drafting the proposed changes to SB 2098 and we are asking for your support in passing SB 2098.

I would be happy to field any questions that you have regarding the NDPHP and its role in helping medical providers in the state achieve and maintain recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders.

Thank you

**Ann Leiseth
North Dakota Professional Health Program**