



**2023 Senate Bill 2184**  
**Senate Workforce Development Committee**  
**Senator Michael Wobbema, Chairman**  
**February 10, 2023**

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, my name is Tim Blasl. I am the President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA) which represents hospitals and health systems across the state. I testify in support of Senate Bill 2184 and ask that you give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the bill because it helps with our number one challenge: workforce. We support anything that can streamline the licensing of foreign health care practitioners. The bill would require professional licensing boards to issue a license to an applicant who is a foreign practitioner. The boards retain the authority to determine if licensure would jeopardize the health and safety of our residents and they may deny the application or issue a provisional license, a restricted license, or otherwise limit practice to protect the health and safety of our residents.

The scarcity of health care professionals in all disciplines - not only physicians, advanced practice providers and nurses but also medical imaging techs, physical therapists, psychologists, and many others - challenges our hospitals in both rural and urban areas. To the extent that we can make it easier for health care professionals to become licensed to work in North Dakota, without compromising public safety, it helps hospitals provide the care that patients need close to home.

I do not have the magical answer to solve the health care professional workforce shortage, but simplifying and speeding up the licensing of foreign health care professions is definitely part of the solution.

Please give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to respond to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association