SB 2203

Senate Workforce Development

Testimony of Mercedez Rosario

February 16, 2023,

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Hello, my name is Mercedez Rosario, and I am here to offer testimony in support of SB 2203 which is Relating to the licensure of social workers in North Dakota. Thinking about the licensure exam and how this can make or break a person's career that they have been working for for the past four years, going to classes and getting good grades to get the degree that they have wanted this whole time just to have to turn around and take a big exam that tells them if they can, or they can not practice as a social worker even after all the work that they did in school. After all that work and money spent to get the degree and they fail the exam, it is all over, and they feel that nothing they did was worth it. Not having to take the exam after four years of schooling can be distressing, and a lot of social work students and even individuals that practice social work now know that they do not have to pass a big test after they worked so hard in school to get the degree of social work.

The licensure exam also has many flaws that make it hard for some groups of people to be able to pass the exam. Some people are book smart, and others are testing smart or both. Still, the people it affects the most are people of diverse communities and individuals with a hard time taking a test where they blank out when looking at the trial. They start to guess themselves in the

end second, making them fail the exam. This causes many issues, as the number of people licensed as social workers is decreasing because many people can not pass the test. Let's take the exam out of the requirements to become a licensed social worker. This could bring our numbers up tramentisly, and this will make caseloads smaller, which will benefit the people that the social workers are working with as the social worker will have a smaller caseload, to be able to spend more time with their clients and help them the best they can with the resources that they have.