

Comments to the North Dakota Senate Workforce Development Committee

Sen. Mike Wobbema, Chair

Submitted by DeAnna Carlson Zink, CEO of the UND Alumni Association & Foundation

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Chair Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 2288, which would provide appropriations for matching grants for nursing programs around the state, including at the University of North Dakota. What an excellent way to harness the power of philanthropy to work with the state on this critical workforce initiative.

As the leader of the non-profit dedicated to raising funds in support of UND students, I can attest to the value of public/private partnerships as a catalyst for donations from alumni and friends of the University.

Time and time again, we have encountered alumni who have given for the first time or increased the size of their gift due to the ability to have their gift increased with a state match.

A grant program that targets nursing programs is an excellent way to begin addressing the critical shortage of nurses in the state.

The University of North Dakota has been educating nurses for more than 110 years, and our alumni stand ready to support this program in concert with the state of North Dakota. Let's tackle this pressing issue together to ensure a stable supply of outstanding nurses.

Thank you.

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