SB 2337
January 26, 2023
Senate Workforce Development Committee
Bill Kalanek
APT Inc., ND CPA Society, ND Assoc. of Nurse Anesthetists, ND Chiropractic Association

Good afternoon Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development committee. My name is Bill Kalanek and I'm before you today representing myself as owner of APT Inc., as well as The ND CPA Society, the ND Assoc. of Nurse Anesthetists and the ND Chiropractic Association. I stand here today in opposition to the bill before for many of the reasons you will hear today but my situation is uniquely different.

The CPAs, Nurse Anesthetists and the Chiropractors I represent in my capacity as lobbyist all oppose this government consolidation of board management under the umbrella of OMB as this bill directs. The associations I represent all feel independent management of regulated professions is the best model for efficient licensing of professionals in their industries. There is no one size fits all when it comes to licensing of different professionals. Education requirements vary greatly, interstate compacts dictate to some professions and not others, criminal history reviews are done differently across professions and continuing education requirements vary dramatically.

SB 2337 takes a simplistic view of the licensing landscape and seeks to throw a blanket over it all in the hope that somehow consolidating it into state government adds efficiency. On behalf of the professions I represent I urge you to give a Do Not Pass recommendation to SB 2337 and allow our efficiently managed state boards to continue to do good work for our licensees.

Now, to shift gears a bit. I am the owner of a small business in Bismarck that employs 5 hard working and dedicated employees. Everyday, they go to work and provide an invaluable service to the state of North Dakota. Those employees are tasked with managing the "board office" for 8 of the States licensed professions. When legislators think I'm out golfing after the session, I'm actually trying to catch up on any items I might have to take care of to help my employees serve the boards that we are contracted to manage.

The 3rd party management my office provides to these boards should demonstrate to you the efficiencies that the private sector can offer as an alternative to state-based options. If this bill were passed and put into effect I would immediately have to consider closing my board management office and send some fantastic people out into the job market to find work elsewhere. The service APT provides allows these boards to share resources and keep expenses down while at the same time offering high-level professional management to boards that would otherwise struggle to maintain and operate an 8 to 5, 40+ hour a week office.

I respectfully request a DO NOT PASS on SB 2337 on behalf of my employees and the licensees they serve.