



2025 HB 1220
House Education Committee
Representative Pat Heinert, Chairman
January 20, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1220. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the creation of an accelerated degree for high-demand occupations. We support a higher education institution offering an accelerated degree as an optional substitute.

The number one issue facing hospitals today is workforce. The lack of health care workers is challenging in both the urban and rural areas throughout the state. I know you hear about the nursing shortage, but hospitals face other job type shortages like surgical techs, radiology techs, lab techs, and many others.

In summary, we support this bill because it would allow individuals to enter the workforce sooner. We also understand the different professional boards need to be in sync with this legislation since they license high-demand occupations.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association