



**BOARD OF  
MEDICINE**

Established 1890

4204 Boulder Ridge Rd Suite 260  
Bismarck, ND 58503-6162

Phone (701) 450-4060 • Fax (701) 989-6392  
[www.ndbom.org](http://www.ndbom.org)

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 20, 2025

TESTIMONY OF  
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1220

Chair Heinert, members of the Committee, I'm Sandra DePountis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Board of Medicine, appearing on behalf of the Board to provide information on House Bill 1220 relating to developing accelerated degree programs for "high-demand occupations." However, such a degree in medicine or physician assistant studies, unless accredited by the appropriate national accrediting agencies, could not be used for licensure in North Dakota or any other state.

Subsection 2 of the bill would require the Board of Medicine to "accredit" an accelerated degree program "for licensing purposes." However, the Board of Medicine does not accredit the education programs for the professions under its jurisdiction – this is done by recognized national accreditation entities. Medical education programs are accredited by the Liaison Committee of Medical Education (LCME) for an MD degree and by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) for a DO degree. An individual MUST graduate from one of these accredited programs in order to (1) sit for national examinations (United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) for MD and Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Exam (COMLEX) for DO) and (2) to be eligible for a U.S. residency program – both of which are required for licensure. Physician Assistants must graduate from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA) to sit for

Mission Statement

The Board's mission is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by regulating the practice of medicine, thereby ensuring quality health care for the citizens of this state.

examination (PANCE exam) and to be eligible for national certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Again, required for licensure.

Imagine an individual spending time and money on an accelerated program, only to find out that they would not be able to be licensed, in this state or any other state. At the very least, the bill should have safeguards to prevent such unintended consequences and specify what are considered “high-demand occupations.”

Thank you for your time and attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.