



SMP Health

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February 10, 2025

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: Opposition to HB 1493-Relating to the Office of Legal Immigration

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1493, which proposes to eliminate the ND Office of Legal Immigration.

Rural Hospitals, Clinics, and Skilled Nursing Facilities are facing critical workforce shortages and limited resources. Legal Immigration has been an avenue to provide much-needed human resources to continue providing the high quality of care that is found throughout rural ND.

Recently, in collaboration with the ND Office of Immigration, I was able to recruit a family with children to my facility and community, filling three open front line staff positions that I have been advertising as open for over 1 year. Filling these front-line positions has taken pressure off of my long term staff and brings stability to these departments that has not been realized since pre-covid. Due to the overwhelming success of this process, in collaboration with the ND Office of Immigration, I have successfully recruited a second family which will bring a resource to nursing, the greatest need in healthcare currently.

Maintaining the ND Office of Immigration provides employers in rural ND the resources needed to not only recruit much needed staff to their organizations, the ND Office of Immigration also provides resources and knowledge to assist those new North Dakotans to integrate into the community.

In order to continue to maintain the highest quality of care in rural ND, the ND Office of Immigration is a much-needed resource to continue recruiting and retaining the human resources required.

Sincerely,

Ryan Mickelsen
Pres/CEO