



House Bill 1622 – Support  
January 20, 2026  
Joint Policy Committee  
Janelle Moos, AARP ND- [jmoos@aarp.org](mailto:jmoos@aarp.org)

Chair and Members of the Joint Policy Committee,

My name is Janelle Moos, Advocacy Director with AARP North Dakota. AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization with nearly 38 million members. 83,000 of those members live in North Dakota.

Almost one in five Americans reside in rural areas. Residents in rural communities face significant health disparities, and worse health outcomes, across numerous measures and conditions, when compared to urban areas. Lack of access to services is a driver of these disparities. Residents of rural areas also face longer drives to hospitals, as well as hospital closures that leave communities without essential services. All these challenges hit older North Dakotans especially hard as many do not have the mobility, technology, or financial means to obtain care elsewhere. Addressing health care disparities in rural and underserved areas will require a multifaceted approach, and we appreciate you seeking feedback in a variety of areas, related to rural health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 1622. We believe that interstate licensure compacts, such as the Physician Assistant (PA) licensure compact, help mitigate healthcare provider shortages, ensure continuity of care, and improve access to quality healthcare, especially in rural and medically underserved communities.

Adopting interstate licensure compacts, including the PA Interstate Compact, is one action that our state can take to address our healthcare workforce crisis. Licensure compacts eliminate obstacles that can make it more difficult for licensed healthcare professionals to practice in multiple states, allowing for greater flexibility and opportunities. They reduce the time and cost associated with providers obtaining multiple licenses, saving providers months of waiting and significant administrative fees. They also promote the use of telemedicine (a valuable service for rural communities), provide flexibility for providers who live near state lines, and make it easier for military spouses to find employment due to frequent moves.

While licensure compacts alone will not solve our state's healthcare provider shortage, they are an important way for our state to expand access to care and help older adults live comfortably and in good health.

Connecting and investing in the health of residents living in rural communities is critical. We think HB 1622 is an important step forward in helping older North Dakotans remain in their communities as they age, therefore, we urge you to support the bill.

Thank you.