



## **Senate Finance and Tax Committee**

### **SCR 4023**

**February 11, 2025**

Chairman Weber and Committee Members, I'm Donna Thronson and I serve as Communications Director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students. NDMA opposes SCR 4023.

NDMA appreciates the intention of this resolution. Addressing property taxes is a major concern for the people of North Dakota, the Governor, and the legislature. However, this mill levy has an extremely small effect on individual tax bills but provides a stable and much-needed funding source for the state's only medical school. Not knowing how or if the funds will be replaced could leave your school of medicine with a funding shortfall. This situation is serious when the school's funding relies on educating North Dakota's future and present healthcare workforce.

In 1948, the people of North Dakota voted to approve an amendment to the North Dakota Constitution to provide SMHS with dollars raised using a single mill levy to help finance their operations. NDMA assumes that it is the intention of the bill's sponsors not to defund the medical school, but rather to shift the source of funding from property taxes

to the general fund. However, state budgets are tight, and receiving a large increase in funding will be difficult. The fiscal impact or reduction in collections in the 2027-2029 biennium is estimated to be \$14,738,688 if approved by qualified electors in the 2026 general election.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I would be happy to answer any questions.