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Chair Barta and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee, my name is Jaci Hall, Executive Director of the North Dakota Association for Justice. Today, we are in support of SB2181.

Members of our association provide legal support to injured workers all across North Dakota. This support is crucial to assist an injured worker navigate their injury and the WSI System.

Many injured workers also have mental injuries that either coincide with or are a result of a traumatic event. Creating a pathway to provide additional support to mental injuries is important.

We believe that SB2181 will be more valuable if these tests along with other independent medical examinations are covered by WSI in its entirety and not the burden of the injured worker. Many times, these workers do not have the funds to cover the cost for additional tests. These tests and examinations can solve the issue of whether their injury is compensable or not.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this issue and to support expansion of Workers Compensation benefits.

Please support SB2181 and add the disclosure that these tests and examinations are covered by Workers Compensation and not the burden of the injured worker.

Jaci Hall

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