

Senate Bill 2308
Testimony of Pat Bertagnolli, Job Service North Dakota
Senate State and Local Government Committee
February 6, 2025

Chairman Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, my name is Patrick Bertagnolli, and I am the Executive Director of Job Service North Dakota (JSND). I am providing this testimony in support of the proposed amendments to SB2308 related to the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), specifically as outlined in Sections 17 through 20 and Subsection 11 of Section 3.

JSND administers many state and federal programs, requiring the collection and utilization of confidential information of North Dakota individuals and employers. While JSND maintains a skilled and very active Labor Market Information team that analyzes and publishes accurate and relevant workforce information, it is understood that SLDS provides longitudinal reporting by integrating data from the state education system with workforce data from JSND. My hope is that we maintain minimal duplication of effort, specifically as it relates to workforce data, the area for which JSND is the most knowledgeable entity.

The primary concern of JSND with any change to the structure of SLDS is the continuity of processes and the focus on meeting confidentiality requirements. JSND is required to follow both federal and state laws as it relates to the confidential personally identifiable information we maintain as we administer the Unemployment Insurance and Workforce programs under our charge. The federal laws are more restrictive than state law, requiring JSND to review information relating to the utilization and aggregation of the data prior to release to SLDS for research and publication.

We currently have data sharing agreements in place with the participants of SLDS and we have spent a significant amount of time educating employees of the North Dakota Information Technology Department (NDIT) on the processes and procedures necessary for the legal release and publication of information. This process of education and fine-tuning of procedures has taken a significant amount of time and at this point is operating effectively.

JSND did have concern with the original draft of SB 2308 which contained an impactful change of responsibility as it relates to the operation of the SLDS program. These concerns have been addressed with the amendments proposed here and I would recommend the approval of these amendments.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and support of the proposed amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Patrick Bertagnolli

Executive Director, Job Service North Dakota