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S.B. 2308

SUPPORT

Senate State and Local Government Committee

Sen. Kristin Roers, Chairman
Sen. Jose Castaneda, Vice Chairman

Testimony of Zachary Greenberg

Interim Commissioner of Labor
N.D. Department of Labor and Human Rights

February 6, 2025



Chair Roers and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on SB 2308. My name is Zachary Greenberg, and I am the Interim Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Human Rights. I am here to testify in support for the bill as amended by Ms. Hicks proposed amendments, and in support of the proposed move of the task force as proposed by the Governor's Office which transfers the Boards Review Task Force from the Department of Labor and Human Rights to the Governor's Office.

As the bill currently stands, the Department of Labor and Human Rights is responsible for staffing and providing administrative support to the task force. While we recognize the importance of the task force's work in identifying inefficiencies within occupational and professional licensing boards, the Department is currently managing a backlog of over 400 cases involving labor standards, wage disputes, discrimination complaints, and other critical enforcement matters. These cases directly impact North Dakota workers and businesses, and the Department's ability to process them efficiently is essential to fulfilling its core mission.

Unlike larger agencies with dedicated policy teams, the Department operates with a lean staff focused on enforcement and compliance. The additional responsibility of coordinating a broad, government-wide review of professional boards places further strain on our limited resources and risks delaying essential services for North Dakotans who rely on the Department for timely case resolutions.

Transferring the task force to the Governor's Office will ensure it has the dedicated administrative support necessary to conduct a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of licensing boards without diverting resources from the Department's core enforcement duties. The Governor's Office is well positioned to provide the necessary staffing and interagency coordination to execute the task force's mission effectively.

While I support this amendment, I remain fully committed to the task force's objectives and welcome the opportunity to continue serving as a member. I look forward to contributing my expertise and sharing insights from the Department's Occupational Licensure Study conducted during the 2023–2025 interim.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support the bill and the amendment.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.