

Testimony in Opposition to 2025 SB 2031

Senator Mike Wobbema, Chairman

January 9, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, my name is Brittany Boehm, former RN at a local hospital.

During my career, I saw the steady decline from a well-staffed highly functioning hospital unit to a very poorly staffed, struggling department with nurses quitting left and right due to job fatigue, both physical and emotional. I saw the influx of travel nurses, filling the voids left by local staff. Some of these travel nurses didn't last long, as they were not a good fit and the hospital chose not to renew their contracts, or terminated them early. Many travel nurses, however, were some of the best nurses I have ever met and I benefited immensely from working alongside them.

Measures are already in place to license nurses, report violations, and conduct disciplinary action through the state Board of Nursing. Conduct issues that do not qualify for these criteria can be handled between a healthcare facility and an agency, with no need for government involvement.

This bill seeks to address issues that arise because the healthcare facilities are unable to take these steps on their own with travel agency employees as they would with their own employees. If this is the standard that the facility requires, they should require it of the travel agency in their contracts, rather than trying to write it into law.

This bill places an unnecessary burden on the taxpayer to cover the costs of something that should be handled completely within the private sector.

As is typically experienced in a true free market system, the agencies that meet the requirements of the facilities will win the contracts, and the agencies that fail to meet them will have no contracts, motivating them to change their procedures.

Zero government interference. Zero taxpayer dollars.

Every day, Americans make the decision (and sometimes sacrifice) to speak with their dollars by buying from retailers whose standards they support. Healthcare facilities can do the same and refuse to work with inferior agencies, rather than looking to the government to solve the issue for them.

Respectfully,

Brittany Boehm

Mandan, ND