

SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



SB 2108

Testimony of Jay Metzger, PA-C

North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants

January 9th, 2025

Chairman Wobbema, Senate Workforce Development Committee members, the North Dakota Academy of PAs would like to offer neutral testimony on SB 2108, the Physician Assistant (PA) Compact bill.

We express our general support for the PA Compact while also raising concerns about specific details noted by the ND Board of Medicine. The NDAPA was also ready to submit the PA Compact model legislation this session, but after careful consideration, we decided it was best to wait until the Compact is operational (likely sometime in 2026). Once that happens, we will better understand the intricacies that need to be addressed in submitting a bill for consideration in the 2027 Session. This will result in only a short delay for PAs to apply for the Compact.

The PA Compact represents a significant step toward improving mobility and flexibility for PAs, especially in an increasingly interconnected healthcare

environment. The Compact can address critical workforce shortages, particularly in rural and underserved areas by allowing PAs to practice across state lines with a single interstate privilege. It will also simplify the process for PAs to move between states, reducing administrative burdens and delays that can impede patient care, especially with our military PAs.

We currently have a very efficient licensing system for PAs in ND that usually only takes a week or two, so if this bill does not go forward during this session, a short wait will not set anyone back significantly. If the bill progresses, we will collaborate with the sponsors, the ND Board of Medicine, and other stakeholders to ensure everything is as accurate as possible.

In conclusion, while we support the overarching goals of the PA Compact, we urge the Committee to consider the critical details to ensure its successful implementation.

Thank you for your time, and please let me know if you have any questions.



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