



## 2025 SB 2146

### Senate Workforce Development Committee

#### Senator Wobbema, Chairman

January 16, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2146. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the passage of the occupational therapy licensure compact because it would streamline the interstate practice of occupational therapy with the goal of improving public access to occupational therapy services. The practice of occupational therapy would occur in the state where the patient is located at the time of the patient encounter. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

Other health care professions have similar interstate licensing compacts that have worked well to make licensing across state lines faster and more efficient, such as the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact (APRN Compact), the Physical Therapy Compact (PT Compact), and the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).

Additional benefits of adopting this particular compact are that it will:

- Increase public access to occupational therapy services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;
- Enhance states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;
- Encourage cooperation of member states in regulating multistate occupational therapy practice;
- Support spouses of relocating military members;

- Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information between member states;
- Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and
- Facilitate the use of telehealth technology to increase access to occupational therapy services.

In summary, we support passage of this bill and hope that you will give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association