

Testimony on Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
Senate Workforce Development Committee
January 16, 2025
Senate Bill 2146

Chairman Wobbema and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee. My name is Nikki Wegner, and I am the President with the North Dakota Long Term Care Association. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2146, an essential initiative that aligns with our shared goal of strengthening North Dakota's workforce.

The proposed licensure compact is designed to simplify the process for occupational therapists to provide services across state lines while maintaining high standards of safety and accountability. By allowing licensed professionals to practice in member states with greater ease, this compact directly addresses the growing demand for occupational therapy services, especially in rural and underserved communities.

Several other healthcare professions, such as nursing, physical therapy, and psychology, have successfully implemented similar interstate compacts. These frameworks have proven effective in improving access to care, enhancing mobility for professionals, and ensuring public safety.

By supporting Senate Bill 2146, North Dakota has the opportunity to join this innovative initiative and position itself as a leader in improving access to occupational therapy services for its residents.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to support this important legislation and vote in favor of SB 2146. Thank you for your leadership and for advancing solutions that strengthen our state's workforce.

Nikki Wegner MS, OTR/L, President
North Dakota Long Term Care Association
1900 North 11th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-0660
nikki@ndltca.org