

Chair Wobbema, Vice Chair Axtman, and honorable members of the Workforce Development Committee,

My name is Kami Dornfeld, I'm a practicing dentist in Williston, ND and the immediate past president of the North Dakota Dental Association. I write in support of SB2217 and recommend a "do pass" on this bill.

I feel the NDBODE has done their due diligence with the proposed updates to the dental practice act. They were clear, transparent, and welcomed any feedback throughout the process. As a past member of the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Practice and the Dental Wellness Advisory Committee Chair for 2 years, a section that stands out to me, is the update on page 12 lines 13-22 allowing dentists to participate in the Physicians Health Program. This is a huge step in the right direction. After serving as chair of DWAC for the ADA, I heard countless stories of providers receiving successful mental health treatment allowing them to safely continue practicing. This is more important now than ever with the extra stress many of us carry due to the immense workforce shortages our entire state and country are facing.

Some other sections that stand out are the updates to volunteer licenses. As chair for the North Dakota Mission of Mercy I see the value in allowing providers, such as hygienists, to participate in volunteer opportunities within our state. I also would like to commend the NDBODE for their recent updates to the rules that took effect last October. Practicing in western North Dakota has always been challenging to find and hire qualified team members, now more than ever with the current workforce shortages. The recent rule changes have allowed me the ability to train my existing staff to do a little more, this has freed up my time to provide more care for a long list of patients requiring treatment.

Lastly, I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to our great state and thank you from the bottom of my heart for dedicating so much of your time to making ND even better. I humbly ask you to support SB2217 with a Do Pass.

Respectfully,

Kami Dornfeld DDS