

TESTIMONY OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAY SHELDON
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
07 FEBRUARY 2025
SENATE BILL 2341

Chair Wobbema and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jay Sheldon, and I am here representing the North Dakota Military Commission to express support for SB 2341, which would allow North Dakota to join an interstate licensing compact for school psychologists.

North Dakota is home to a significant number of military families that have some unique challenges that come with frequent relocations. For military spouses who are licensed school psychologists, moving to a new state can mean facing licensure requirements that may delay their ability to contribute to our schools and support our children's mental health needs.

By joining the school psychology licensing compact, North Dakota can facilitate a smoother transition for these professionals, allowing licensed school psychologists from other compact states to practice in our schools with greater ease.

Supporting this compact not only helps military families but also enhances our educational environment by providing access to highly qualified school psychologists who can offer critical support to students, teachers, and families. It will help ensure that North Dakota schools have the resources they need to foster a safe and supportive learning environment.

This legislation demonstrates North Dakota's commitment to being a military-friendly state and reflects our dedication to the mental health and educational success of all students. By reducing barriers for school psychologists, we can create a more effective and responsive educational system that meets the needs of our diverse student population.

On behalf of the North Dakota Military Commission, I ask you to support SB 2341.

Thank you for your time and consideration.