

Marilyn Arechiga Quintero
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West Fargo, ND 58078

February 13, 2025

Subject: Testimony Regarding Senate Bill

Dear Senate Workforce Development Committee,

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 2357, which proposes a composite mental health licensing board. Combining psychologists, counselors, social workers, substance abuse counselors, and marriage and family therapists under one board would compromise the integrity of each profession, reduce representation in key licensure matters, and create unnecessary financial burdens on both the state and licensees.

Each profession has distinct educational, ethical, and licensure requirements. A composite board could also hinder licensure portability efforts, such as the Counseling Compact, by introducing conflicts between professional regulations. Additionally, this change would likely increase licensing wait times—North Dakota currently processes counseling licenses in about 30 days, whereas composite board states, like Minnesota, take four to six months. The financial costs of restructuring databases, adjusting statutes, and hiring additional staff would further strain resources.

I urge you to **OPPOSE** this bill. Please feel free to contact me at **marilyn.quintero@ndsu.edu** for any questions or further clarification. Thank you for your time and support of the counseling profession in North Dakota.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Quintero, LAPC, NCC, ME.d