

## **HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Honorable Rep. Weisz, Chair

SB 2122 Testimony

March 22, 2021

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

For the record, I am Brad Bekkedahl, Senator for District 1 in Williston, and the prime sponsor of SB 2122 before you today. I've had the privilege to work with several Physical Therapist practitioners on this issue since the 2019 session. There has been significant presentation and discussion with all the medical community affected by this legislation, and we feel there is now enough agreement to bring the bill forward. The bill as presented allows any Physical Therapist or Doctor of Physical Therapy with proper training in radiology to order plain film x-rays to improve the efficiency of patient care. It also should allow faster collaboration and transfer of care when necessary. The US Military has allowed this practice since 1972 and Canada has had this in place since 2012. In both instances, studies have been done that show appropriate, safe, and effective quality of care outcomes.

At times, appropriate imaging is necessary to allow Physical Therapists to safely and effectively treat patients as well as

determine if the problem is first within their scope of practice to treat and secondly to determine the appropriate plan of care. If it is not within their scope, they would be able to assist the patient in getting scheduled with the appropriate provider much more quickly, due to the fact that they already have obtained important objective evidence from the imaging, its interpretation, and their clinical examination. Nothing in this bill interferes with the current referral status from physicians to physical therapists, nor the current requirement that any films ordered be read and interpreted by a radiologist or other authorized professional in the treatment.

Chiropractors and Dentists routinely use imaging and refer to appropriate providers if outside their scope of treatment. The ability to order radiographs is an integral part of patient safety, quality, and efficiency of care, and allows for streamlined collaborative care for the patient and providers.

Mr. Chairman, there will be Physical Therapists and other professionals testifying after me who have much more knowledge and specific information about this issue. I request your favorable consideration of SB 2122 and will now stand for any questions of the committee.

