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January 15, 2021

Dear Senator Roers,

On behalf of the North Dakota Nurses Association, I am writing this letter to support SB 2198 which provides support for the organizational structure of the North Dakota Center for Nursing and to build a new nursing workforce recruitment and retention program to serve North Dakota.

Nurse staffing is in crisis in North Dakota, especially with the pandemic. There is a critical need for a centralized, coordinated effort to provide nurse staffing across the state. This is paired with the need for increased awareness and recruitment of future nurses to replace burned out nurses, an increased focus on recruiting ND nursing students to work in ND, increased recruitment of out-of-state and international nurses, the development of a centralized contract nursing staffing pool and the need to ensure that the work environment provides a positive workplace culture to ensure retention.

As part of the mission of NDNA is to advance the nursing profession by promoting professional development of nurses and fostering high standards of nursing practice, NDNA supports the ND Center for Nursing in this important work. We need a coordinated effort to ensure proper and safe staffing. We ask for your assistance and we respectfully ask that you also support SB 2198.

Sincerely,

Sherri Miller, BS, BSN, RN

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Executive Director

North Dakota Nurses Association