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SB 2249 – Centralization of Administration of Boards
House Industry Business and Labor Committee – JW327C
2:15 PM - Tuesday – March 14, 2023

Chairman Louser and Members of the House Industry Business and Labor Committee, for the record I am Mark Hardy Executive Director of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy.

The Board of Pharmacy is concerned with the provision in this bill giving the duty to the Labor Commissioner to specifically prepare and introduce legislation, which may not consider the intricacies of each individual profession. I appreciate the previous testimony of the current Labor Commissioner and his commitment to take the input of Boards before making a policy recommendation.

However, the unilateral decision-making power is very concerning. It is important to note that this duty seemingly would be ongoing and not limited to the next biennium, which may be contrary to the intent in Section 2. I would like to highlight the fact that these topics largely, have been studied under the direction of the legislature by the Department of Commerce just a few years ago.

To address the issues at hand in the bill, the Board of Pharmacy has long established continuing education standards that has suited the profession well and provides the assurance to the public of continuing competencies in the practitioners they interact with. Secondly, the Board has a well-established electronic license transfer system for pharmacists to transfer licensure to allow an efficient and safe allowance for Pharmacists to practice in the state. This is both for individuals moving into North Dakota, as well as those that would want to practice remotely to residents in North Dakota. This program is used by all states in the country and is an efficient model which maintains the states' rights to govern without delegating to other state's licensures. We are traditionally licensing a pharmacist within a couple days of receiving an application, fee and successful testing results. However, the stated goal in the legislation to license within 3 days of application, while good intentioned, may be challenging for many, including those Board requiring a criminal background check.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration from of our testimony on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.