



2023 Senate Bill 2142
Senate Industry and Business Committee
Senator Doug Larsen, Chairman
January 10, 2023

Chairman Larsen and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I testify in support of Senate Bill 2142 and ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support this bill because it helps with the number one challenge: workforce.

Hospitals work with immigration offices, attorneys, and vendors to recruit international staff. It is my understanding that the cost to recruit ranges from \$10,000 - \$20,000 per individual, depending on the country. Not all hospitals, however, can afford to recruit nurses, lab techs, and rad techs in this way. We believe a state office of immigration would make this process more affordable. We also believe having one entity in the state to coordinate the overall process would be extremely helpful.

Hospitals also support other parts of the bill. We like the idea of assisting immigrants with accessing housing, food, and other essential services. It is our responsibility to help make this a successful transition so that workers not only come to North Dakota but want to make it their permanent home.

To give you an idea of the hospital workforce challenge, NDHA conducted a hospital nursing survey last summer which showed there were 1,326 nurse openings throughout the state. And hospitals had to contract with staffing agencies for another 717 nurses. In the end, hospitals have over 2,000 nurse openings.

I do not have the magical answer to fill all these openings but having a state immigration office that is active in promoting workers is part of the answer.

Please give the bill a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be glad to answer any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association