

RE: SB2287 Nursing Loan Forgiveness \$20,000 over 5 years

Dear Chairman Wobbema and members of the workforce development,

I want to take your time to express the importance of this bill. I am currently a Minnesota resident. I was born and raised in North Dakota and moved to Minnesota ten years ago. I am a current nursing student at Rasmussen University. I will be left with approximately \$30,000 in student loan debt when I graduate. I am a newly single mom and debating moving back to North Dakota as that is where I will be working. If this bill is passed, this would be a deciding factor in whether to move back to North Dakota. This would be a life-changing opportunity.

This would help with the shortage of nurses in North Dakota. This would also help to retain nurses in North Dakota. When there is adequate staff, it improves the job's quality. This would give a significant incentive for North Dakota nurses to remain in North Dakota. Currently, our nurses in this area choose to travel rather than stay here. This would create a positive snowball effect on the quality of patient care, nursing educators, appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios, and job quality for nurses. This would also encourage current nurses to continue their education to become educators, which is greatly needed in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time,
Amber Tougas