

January 24, 2023

Dear Chm. Wobbema & Members of the Workforce Development Comm.:

Attention: SB2287 Nursing Loan Forgiveness Bill

I write to appeal to you about the importance of helping me, my family, and my community (Minority Community) vote in favor of passing this bill.

Personally, now enrolled in a private university (Rasmussen University) to achieve my associate degree in nursing, which will enable me to become a Registered Nurse (RN) after passing my state board examinations, I am aware and overwhelmed by the vast debt (approximately \$45K-\$50K) that this academic decision has placed on me and how increasing of a burden this debt might continue to be for my family. For this reason, other peers in similar programs from the same background and I might be conditioned into being traveling nurses, which will then take away our expertise and workforce from our Fargo Community and possibly North Dakota at large.

Secondly, the importance of passing this SB2287 Nursing Loan Forgiveness bill will make my family and me explore lifetime investments such as buying a home, creating a small business, and giving back to the Fargo community in whatever way.

Furthermore, as an African American who resides in the Fargo Community with my family, the passing of this bill will also open opportunities for me and people of the minority community to further our education and become professionals (BSN, APRN, etc.) and educators within the health field, which will lead to increased diversity and feel of my community being represented across the workforce.

Thanks for your understanding and the tremendous job you do for North Dakotans.

Yours truly,  
Jerome J Zulu.