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Testimony in Opposition (without amendment) to HB 1064
House Education Committee

January 13, 2025

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today. My name is Sherri Miller, and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Nurses Association. The North Dakota Nurses Association (NDNA) is the only professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota. The mission of NDNA is to advance the nursing profession by promoting the professional development of nurses, fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the safety and well-being of nurses in the workplace, and advocating health care issues affecting nurses and the public. We feel NDNA is the leading voice for nurses in the state of North Dakota.

NDNA opposes HB 1064 as this legislation may expel postsecondary institutions with nursing programs at a time when we urgently need to expand healthcare education.

NDNA supports nursing education through all accredited institutions, regardless of their public or private status, whether they offer in-person, online, or a combination of both learning modalities. We believe that students and professionals should have the freedom to pursue the education and training that best suits their individual needs and learning styles.

While NDNA may not possess in-depth knowledge of the intricacies of regulating online universities, we observe a potential disconnect between the bill's stated goal of streamlining administrative processes and its unintended consequences for certain online universities, particularly those offering accredited nursing programs.

We firmly support online education when it meets the rigorous standards set by recognized accrediting bodies. Notably, nursing programs offered by Walden University and Chamberlain University hold accreditation from the prestigious Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

In conclusion, NDNA urges this committee to reject any policy measures that limit access to quality nursing education for those who prefer or require online learning options. We strongly advocate for policies that expand the availability of healthcare education opportunities for all North Dakotans.

We do not support this bill and respectfully ask that it may be amended.

Thank you,

Sherri Miller BSN, RN
Executive Director
North Dakota Nurses Association