

**2025 SB 2286**  
**House Education Committee**  
**Representative Heinert, Chairman**  
**March 11, 2025**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I am Dr. Joshua Deere, President of Altru Health System. I write in favor of Senate Bill 2286. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

As a health system and teaching facility located in Grand Forks, ND, it is essential that Altru partner with the University of North Dakota to train, develop and graduate the highest quality workforce. SB 2286 would allow the University of North Dakota to train students in a simulated hospital, real-world medical setting, allowing trainees to practice procedures, teamwork, and decision-making without risk to patients. This training would not only develop quality healthcare professionals, reducing errors and improving interdisciplinary teamwork, but would also help to develop clinical, technical, and soft skills like communication, critical thinking, and leadership.

Altru supports the University's vision of training and educating physicians, nurses, PT, OT, PA and behavioral health professionals through this realistic practice.

Further, it is essential to our organization that the University of North Dakota continue to grow the number of quality graduates in these areas. SB 2286 would allow additional space and training capacity for the University, which would support Altru's rapidly expanding behavioral health services.

For these reasons, we ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Deere, MD, President Altru Health System