



**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2281**  
**House Finance and Taxation**  
**March 11, 2025**

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, I am Jenn Faul, Director of Fargo Cass Public Health. I am providing written testimony for your consideration in support of Senate Bill 2281. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

North Dakota has pledged to become the healthiest state in the country. According to America's Health Rankings, when it comes to smoking and e-cigarette (vaping, etc.) utilization, North Dakota is ranked 30<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> respectively of the 48 states reporting.

National goals and objectives set forth in Healthy People 2030 include: 1) the reduction of e-cigarette use in adolescents TU-05 and 2) increase the national average tax on cigarettes TU 21.

The Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Results for North Dakota show significant strides in the decrease of adolescent cigarette smoking rates; however the increased rates of electronic vaping devices have set us back nearly fourteen years in our efforts to decrease adolescent nicotine use.

Fargo Cass Public Health supports SB 2281 bill as it demonstrates an evidence-based approach to decrease smoking and overall use of nicotine. To further the evidence-based approach would be to increase the overall % of the tax to make it a noticeable tax. Passing SB 2281 aligns us with a national best practice suggested in Healthy People 2030. Furthermore, passing SB 2281 may further our overall health ranking and decreased our youth electronic vaping rates.

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, you have before you an opportunity to do something that has not been done in legislation for the past **32** years in North Dakota. You can pass a tax that has been proven to decrease nicotine use and increase a positive revenue stream for Public Health and the 988-system supporting Mental Health Crisis in our state.

Fargo Cass Public Health encourages a **Do Pass** recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.