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House Human Services Committee  
Representative Ruby, Chairman  
Testimony in Support of SN 2221  
Monday, March 17, 2025

Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich and the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Sherri Miller, and I have been a registered nurse in North Dakota for 26 years. Additionally, I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Nurses Association (NDNA). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 2221.

The NDNA stands as the only professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota. Part of our mission is to advance the nursing profession by promoting professional development and advocating for healthcare issues that impact both nurses and the public at large. We are committed to implementing effective recruitment and retention strategies for our nursing workforce. SB 2221 is one way to assist with this.

The bill would add a Master of Science degree in nursing to the student loan repayment program. A nurse will qualify for the program if they teach four clinical credits per year and reside and work in the state in an occupation requiring the degree.

Nurses make up the largest group of healthcare professionals, yet our state is currently facing a significant nursing demand due to a range of factors. This shortage is a complex challenge that has far-reaching effects on North Dakota's workforce, communities, and economy. We feel that SB 2221 is another step forward to assist nursing education and enhances our collective efforts to support nurses in North Dakota.

We urge you to pass the bill to ensure a stronger, more sustainable nursing workforce in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sherri Miller, BS, BSN, RN  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Nurses Association