Kasper, Jim M.

From: Stacy Norton <stacynor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:35 AM

To: Kasper, Jim M.

Subject: Opposition to ND Senate Bill 2089 – Protecting North Dakota's Agents and Clients

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Dear Members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

On behalf of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors – North Dakota (NAIFA-ND), we write to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 2089. As the leading advocacy association representing insurance agents, financial advisors, and the clients they serve, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact this bill could have on both our professionals and the North Dakotans who rely on their expertise.

SB 2089 proposes changes to the confidentiality provisions of the North Dakota Insurance Code that could weaken critical protections for both licensed agents and their clients. Our members work tirelessly to guide North Dakotans in making informed financial and insurance decisions, and their ability to do so effectively depends on a foundation of trust and confidentiality. If these protections are compromised, it could expose both agents and consumers to unnecessary risks, including potential misuse of sensitive financial information and increased vulnerability to data breaches.

Furthermore, this bill places undue burden on our state's insurance and financial professionals, creating an environment of uncertainty that could discourage talented individuals from entering or remaining in the industry. Our agents deserve regulatory policies that support their ability to serve clients with confidence, not measures that make it harder for them to uphold their professional responsibilities.

While we recognize the need for transparency in regulatory matters, we strongly believe that any legislative changes must carefully balance oversight with the essential privacy and security protections that safeguard both our clients and the professionals who serve them. Weakening these protections not only jeopardizes consumer trust but also undermines the stability of North Dakota's insurance and financial services industry.

We respectfully urge the committee for a **Do Not Pass** to oppose SB 2089 and instead work collaboratively with industry stakeholders to develop solutions that protect consumers while ensuring a fair and supportive environment for the dedicated agents and advisors serving our state. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss these concerns and stand ready to assist in shaping policies that serve the best interests of all North Dakotans.

Sincerely,

Stacy Norton
NAIFA ND President
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