HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND LABOR COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2025

TESTIMONY OF
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2395

Chair Warrey, members of the Committee, I'm Sandra DePountis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Board of Medicine, appearing on behalf of the Board to provide testimony in support of Engrossed Senate Bill 2395.

The Board of Medicine appreciates all the work done by the Department of Labor this last biennium implementing Senate Bill 2249 and reviewing regulatory and licensing boards in the state. The study was thoughtfully done with Board collaboration and input. The Board of Medicine was a part of DOL's Occupational Licensure Advisory Committee (OLAC) and provided information and insight into Board operations as it related to the Board of Medicine.

Senate Bill 2395 is the result of this study and outlines the expectations of all boards to implement consistent standards. The Board of Medicine already implements most of these provisions – licenses are issued within days of a completed application, provisional licenses are issued in between Board meetings, continuing education requirements were addressed during the 2023 legislative session to be less burdensome to licensees, and all our forms and applications are readily accessible online. Universal Licensure makes North Dakota more competitive in recruiting a national workforce so those wishing to come to our state know there is a clear, expedited pathway to obtain licensure – which is balanced against a Board's ability to verify that only qualified and competent practitioners are being licensed.

Thank you for your time and attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.