



**2025 HB 1468**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**Senator Judy Lee, Chairman**  
**March 17, 2025**

Madam Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1468 and ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the bill because it will provide funding for a critical need in North Dakota – inpatient behavioral health beds. The bill provides up to \$16 million to North Dakota Health and Human Services for the purpose of providing a behavioral health facility grant.

The grant funds could help to increase the number of inpatient behavioral health beds in the West Central Human Service Center region by thirty, which would be a mix of adult and adolescent inpatient beds.

We support the bill because we believe there is a critical need for more inpatient behavioral health beds in North Dakota. This funding will allow us to begin meeting that need in the west central region of the state.

In summary, we hope that you will give it a **Do Pass** recommendation. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP  
North Dakota Hospital Association