



2025 SB 2018

Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division

Senator Terry Wanzek, Chairman

January 15, 2025

Chairman Wanzek and members of the Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2018. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the funding of a rural health care grant program in the department of commerce to provide matching funds to assist in the recruitment, distribution, and supply, and enhancing the quality and efficiency of personnel providing health services in rural areas of the state. We appreciate any assistance the legislature gives to promote and enhance rural health care services by funding workforce initiatives to deliver health care to rural populations in our state. This in turn helps to improve population health and health care sustainability in rural North Dakota. We envision the grant program strengthening local health care resources and access in rural communities. Through the grants, communities can develop innovative approaches to solve their own unique challenges and factors underlying rural health access disparities.

In summary, we support passage of this bill and 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,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association