



2025 SB 2147

Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division

Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman

February 3, 2025

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2147. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

As in many industries in our state, hospitals' number one challenge is workforce. Hospitals are in need of nurses, surgical techs, imaging techs, lab techs, physical and speech language therapists, and many other positions. Hospitals cannot continue to shoulder the burden of high-cost contract staff to fill these needs.

We support the legislature's many efforts, including this bill, to fund workforce development programs. Hospitals have benefited from using such programs, like Career Builders, to fill some of these needed positions. The health care field is the biggest user of the Career Builders program accounting for about 30 percent of the new hires gained through the program. We would greatly appreciate the continuation of the program to provide an additional effective way to recruit and retain necessary health care workforce.

In summary, we support passage of the bill and hope that you 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