

HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND LABOR COMMITTEE
JANUARY 25, 2021

TESTIMONY OF
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE
HOUSE BILL NO. 1166

Chairman Lefor, members of the Committee. I am Dr. Robert Sticca, appearing on behalf of the North Dakota Board of Medicine, in opposition to HB 1166.

The Board of Medicine already offers an expedited licensure process for foreign practitioners through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which was adopted in 2019 and codified in chapter 43-17.4. Section 5 of the Compact outlines the requirements for the expedited license and would conflict with the process and standards outlined in Section 4 of the proposed bill. If forced to implement these conflicting standards, the Board runs the risk of being found in default of performing its obligations and responsibilities under the Compact, resulting in the Compact Commission terminating North Dakota's membership and ability to issue licenses under the Compact. The Commission also has the authority to initiate legal action against North Dakota to enforce the Compact, which could include seeking damages.

Licenses issued under the Compact have sky-rocketed – to date, the Board has issued over 500 licenses under the Compact. The Board does not want to jeopardize these licenses or its ability to continue as part of the Compact.

Finally, it is not clear from the bill who would qualify as a “resident of the state” as that phrase is not defined in the bill or chapter 43-51.

It is for these reasons the Board requests a do not pass on HB 1166, or, in the alternative, requests it be removed from the bill on page 3, line 27, and page 4, line 13.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee and I would stand for any questions.