

**2023 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**SB 2288**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Workforce Development Committee  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
1/26/2023

Relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.
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9:45 AM **Chairman Wobbema** called the hearing to order. **Senators Wobbema, Axtman, Elkin, Larson, Sickler, Piepkorn** were present.

## Discussion Topics:

- Grant matching
- High school programs
- Scholarships

9:45 AM **Senator K. Roers**, introduced SB 2288 testified in favor and proposed an amendment. #17086

9:49 AM **Sheri Miller, Executive Director North Dakota Nurses Association**, testified in favor. #16837

9:50 AM **Shelly Peterson, President North Dakota Long Term Association**, verbally testified in favor.

9:53 AM **Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education**, provided information verbally.

9:56 AM **Beth Sanford, President Elect North Dakota Nurses Association**, online testimony in favor. #16726

10:00 AM **Amy Lee, Department of Nursing Minot State University**, testified online in favor.

10:06 AM **Rick Hedberg, Executive Director Minot State University Development Foundation**, testified online in favor.

**DeAnna Carlson Zink, Chief Executive Officer, University of North Dakota Alumni Association Foundation**, testified in favor. #16844

**Additional written testimony:**

**Maridee Shogren, Dean of the University of North Dakota College of Nursing and Professional Development, in favor. #16367**

**Julie Traynor, Director, Dakota Nursing Consortium, in favor. #16779**

**Tim Blasl, President, North Dakota Hospital Association, in favor. #16873**

**Dr. Polly Peterson, President, University of Jamestown, in favor. #16912**

**Rick Hedberg, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director, Minot State University Development Foundation, in favor. #16945**

**Amy Lee, Department of Nursing Chair, Assistant Professor, Minot State University, in favor. #16980**

10:10 AM **Chairman Wobbema** closed the hearing.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
1/27/2023

Relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

9:59 AM **Chairman Wobbema** called the meeting to order. **Senators Wobbema, Axtman, Elkin, Larson, Sickler, Piepkorn** are present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Grant match and fees
- State Board of Higher Education
- Private institutions

**Senator Sickler** moved to adopt Amendment. LC 23.0927.01001 #17086.

**Senator Axtman** seconded the motion.

Roll call Vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Jay Elkin	Y
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Merrill Piepkorn	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y

The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Senator Sickler** moved **DO PASS** as **AMENDED** and **REREFER** to **APPROPRIATIONS**.

**Senator Piepkorn** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Jay Elkin	Y
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Merrill Piepkorn	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y

The motion passed 6-0-0

**Senator Piepkorn** will carry SB 2288

10:14 AM **Chairman Wobbema** closed the meeting.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

January 16, 2023

OR  
121  
1-27-2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2288

Page 1, line 7, remove "the institutional"

Page 1, line 8, replace "foundations of institutions under the control of the state board of higher education" with "accredited institutions of higher education in this state"

Page 1, line 12, replace "Its foundation" with "It"

Page 1, line 19, replace "institutional foundation" with "institution"

Page 2, line 1, replace "institutions under the control of the state board of higher education" with "providers of nursing education"

Page 2, line 2, remove "each institution's nursing"

Page 2, line 3, replace "program" with "nursing programs under section 15-10-48.2"

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT**

This amendment provides for all accredited institutions of higher education in the state to be eligible for a nursing program matching grant.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2288: Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2288 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

Page 1, line 7, remove "the institutional"

Page 1, line 8, replace "foundations of institutions under the control of the state board of higher education" with "accredited institutions of higher education in this state"

Page 1, line 12, replace "Its foundation" with "It"

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Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT**

This amendment provides for all accredited institutions of higher education in the state to be eligible for a nursing program matching grant.

**2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2288**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
2/6/2023

A BILL relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

9:46 AM Chairman Sorvaag opened the hearing on SB 2288.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

### Discussion Topics:

- Nursing program matching grants
- Challenge grants
- New funding source

9:46 AM Senator Hogue, introduced the bill, testified in favor, no written testimony

9:50 AM Charys Kunkel, Director NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck, testified in support, testimony # 19214 and 19244

9:55 AM Amy Cleary, GA Group, representing the University of Jamestown, introduced speaker Tena Lawrence, no written testimony

9:55 AM Tena Lawrence, Executive Vice President, University of Jamestown, testified in support, testimony # 19195

9:58 AM Shelly Peterson, Long Term Care Association, testified in favor, no written testimony

10:00 AM Steve Easton, President Dickinson State University, testified in favor, no written testimony

10:03 AM Mark Hagerott, Chancellor North Dakota University System, testified in favor, no written testimony

### Additional written testimony:

- Maridee Shogren, Testimony # 19112
- Kris Hendrickx, Testimony # 19125
- Rick Hedberg, Testimony # 19143
- Tim Blasl, Testimony # 19164
- Christopher Scott, Testimony # 19233

10:19 AM Chairman Sorvaag closed the hearing.

*Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk*



# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations – Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
2/10/2023

A bill for an act relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation
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9:30 AM Chairman Sorvaag opened the meeting.

Senators Sorvaag, Schaible, Krebsbach, Rust, and Meyer are present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Nursing program enhancements

9:31 AM Senator Schaible introduced the bill.

9:33 AM Senator Meyer moved DO PASS.  
Senator Krebsbach seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Sorvaag	Y
Senator Schaible	Y
Senator Krebsbach	Y
Senator Jim Rust	Y
Senator Meyer	Y

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Schaible will carry the bill.

9:36 AM Senator Sorvaag closed the meeting.

*Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
2/13/2023

Relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

**8:24 AM Chairman Bekkedahl** opened the meeting.

Members present: **Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.**

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

**8:24 AM Senator Shaible** verbally introduced the bill.

**8:26 AM Senator Schaible** moved DO PASS.

**8:26 AM Senator Meyer** seconded.

**8:28 AM** Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Rust	Y

Passed 16-0-0

**Senator Piepkorn** will carry the bill.

**8:30 AM Senator Bekkedahl** closed the meeting.

*Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2288, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2288 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

**2023 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**SB 2288**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
3/7/2023

Relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

11:27 AM

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, and Timmons. Absent: Representatives Hoverson and Novak.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Topic specific matching grant
- Challenge grants
- Occupation crisis
- Public and Nonpublic institutions
- Pandemic staff loss
- Nursing academics
- Attorney General Opinion 22L07
- Attracting and retaining students
- Scholarships
- Faculty
- Technology
- Lab fees
- Clinical accommodations
- Simulation labs

Sen K Roers, District 27, introduced SB 2288, oral testimony  
Shelly Peterson, President, Long Term Care Association, oral testimony  
Steve Easton, President, Dickinson State University, oral testimony  
Kresha Wiest, Chief Financial Officer, University of Jamestown, Testimony 22377  
Shane Goettle, lobbyist for University of Mary, Testimony 22486  
Charys Kunkel, Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health, Bismarck, Testimony 22359  
Amy Lee, Chair of Nursing Department, Minot State University, Testimony 22528

## **Additional written testimony:**

Tim Blasl, Testimony 22185  
Sherri Miller, Testimony 22440  
Faith Wahl, Testimony 22492  
Beth Sanford, Testimony 22653

12:04 PM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

*Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
3/14/2023

Relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

4:39 PM

Chairman Heinert opened the meeting. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Rep Conmy moved an amendment to add the heading, "Nursing program matching grants" on Page 1, Line 5, seconded by Rep Murphy. Voice vote, motion carried.

Rep Conmy moved a Do Pass as Amended and rerefer to appropriations, seconded by Rep Hager.

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	N
Representative Matt Heilman	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Kelby Timmons	N

**9-5-0 Motion carried.** Rep Conmy is carrier.

**Rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.**

4:49 PM Meeting adjourned.

*Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk*

March 14, 2023

*Alc*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2288

*3-14-23  
(1-1)*

Page 1, after line 5, insert:

**"15-10-48.2. Nursing program matching grants."**

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2288, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (9 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2288 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, after line 5, insert:

**"15-10-48.2. Nursing program matching grants."**

Renumber accordingly



**2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2288**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2288  
3/23/2023

Relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

**9:04 AM Chairman Vigesaa** Called the meeting to order and roll call was taken-

**All Members Present;** Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

### Discussion Topics:

- Nursing Shortage
- Require a Monetary Match

**Representative Heinert-** Introduces the bill and its purpose.

**9:09 AM Chairman Vigesaa** Closed the meeting for SB 2288

### Committee Discussion

**Representative Kempenich-**Moves a Do Not Pass

**Representative Meier-**Seconds the motion.

### Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	N
Representative David Monson	Y

Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	N
Representative Brandy Pyle	N
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

**Motion Carries 20-3-0 Representative Sanford will carry the bill.**

**9:20 AM Chairman Vigesaa** Closes the meeting for SB 2288

*Risa Berube, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2288, as engrossed and amended: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (20 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2288, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**SB 2288**

**Comments to the North Dakota Senate Workforce Development Committee  
Sen. Mike Wobbema, Chair**

**Submitted by  
Maridee Shogren, Dean of the University of North Dakota  
College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines**

**Submitted January 24, 2023**

Chair Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 2288, which would provide appropriations for the Nursing Program Matching Grants. My name is Maridee Shogren, DNP, CNM, CLC. I am the dean of the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines (CNPD) at the University of North Dakota. I have been with the CNPD for over 14 years and have helped to educate hundreds of registered nurses, many of whom are employed in the state of North Dakota.

The nursing workforce shortages that we are experiencing in our state require multiple levels of innovative problem-solving and collaboration among academic nursing programs, community healthcare organizations, state officials, and our institutional foundations. North Dakota's rural communities are particularly affected by nursing staffing issues and could greatly benefit from a nursing matching grant program that would help draw graduate nurses into local healthcare organizations like hospitals, public health departments, clinics and long-term care facilities.

For example, Nursing Program Matching Grants could help stimulate collaborative discussions between communities, who often have administrators that are alumni of our North Dakota academic institutions, and nursing students who may be interested in working in their local communities. Matching grant funds, for instance, could provide financial support for students to purchase nursing uniforms, textbooks and educational resources, and medical equipment-expenses that can cost over \$2,000 during the first semester of a nursing program. In addition, stipends could support student experiences in rural healthcare agencies that may not have been considered by students because of the associated travel costs. Stipends to support nursing preceptors could also be greatly beneficial as nursing programs are constantly seeking new preceptors and additional clinical placement opportunities, especially in our rural agencies, and could support nursing program growth.

Thank you for your time and attention to nursing workforce concerns and thoughtful consideration of innovative avenues to support our nursing students and our nursing academic programs.

Maridee Shogren DNP, CNM, CLC (701-777-4529); [maridee.shogren@und.edu](mailto:maridee.shogren@und.edu)  
Dean and Clinical Professor, UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines

January 25, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of SB 2288

Dear Chairman Wobbema, Vice Chair, and members of the Workforce Development Committee,

I'm Dr. Beth Sanford, President-Elect of the North Dakota Nurses Association and a member of the Nursing Recruitment and Retention committee, comprised of members of other state nursing associations.

We are bringing forward this bill SB2288, regarding the funding of a Nursing-Only Challenge grant, as an immediate strategy to support the building of North Dakota's nursing workforce to meet staffing demands.

As you may be familiar, higher education challenge grants can support:

- Nursing Endowments and Scholarships, which support student decision-making to pursue nursing as a profession.
- Informatics infrastructure providing matching grants for high-dollar lab equipment for providers of nursing education.

This bill allows for a nursing-only challenge grant and amendment for a verbiage change for nursing to say, "providers of nursing education" to include additional providers of nursing education and future options for Career and Technical Education partnerships.

Some communities may choose to pursue an innovative program to offer Practice Nursing as part of a higher education/Career and Technical Education partnership program. Key stakeholders are looking at options that meet North Dakota Century Code requirements in building such partnerships, which would have to meet licensure requirements for both the Board of Nursing and secondary education.

Similar programs allow students to complete/begin a practical nursing degree (typically 1-2 years, in high school). Research shows such programs in other states, for LPN (WI, NY, LA) and EMT (Minnesota), retain talent in the local community.

The profession of nursing needs to do something drastic now to encourage North Dakota residents and residents of other states to enter the profession and choose to live and work in North Dakota.

Challenge grants have proven effective for North Dakota to build its workforce, a nursing-only challenge grant would allow providers of nursing education to expand to meet the needs of the workforce in 2023 in creative and innovative ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Can I answer any questions?

Beth Sanford, DNP, MSN, RN, ACN, CLC

President-Elect of the North Dakota Nurses Association

## Senate Workforce Development Committee

### Senator Michael Wobbema, Chair

Comments in support of SB 2288 Relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

Submitted by Julie Traynor, RN, Director, Dakota Nursing Program Consortium on January 25, 2023, for consideration at hearing scheduled on January 26, 2023, at 0945.

Chair Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

My name is Julie Traynor, I am writing in support of SB 2288. I have been the director of the Dakota Nursing Program for the past 15 years. We are a consortium of four community college partners, Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College, and Williston State College. We currently have satellite locations in Tioga, Watford City, Hettinger, Minot, Garrison, Hazen, Harvey, Ashley, Jamestown, Valley City, Grand Forks, and Mayville. Many of our practical nursing (LPN) and RN graduates are living and working in North Dakota.

Several of the issues impacting our practical nursing and associate degree ND nursing programs financially are:

- Finding and retaining faculty who are willing to decrease the salary they earn in practice. Nurses who have an AD or BSN degree also must find the money to fund a graduate degree, so they are qualified to teach our future nurses.
- The technology used in simulation laboratories is expensive. We use simulation in both urban and rural areas, but it is particularly important in our rural areas where students do not have access to complex specialty patients.
- Our students must purchase uniforms, books, medical supplies, and educational resources such as access to online interactive materials, testing, proctoring, and virtual simulations that become more costly each year.

The nursing program matching grants appropriate can help to strengthen our nursing programs and provide financial support to our nursing students. We need diverse and innovative ways to solve our nursing shortage and the matching grant can be an effective part of that.

There are many intelligent and compassionate people who are interested in becoming nurses. It is one of the perks of my job to interact with them. I also work with nurse educators who are innovative, dedicated professionals, who take seriously their responsibility of graduating safe and effective nurses.

Please consider this solution as part of a big picture to assist those nursing students and nurse educators, and to strengthen the medical facilities with great nurses. I ask you to support SB 2288.

Your consideration of this matter is very much appreciated. Thank you for serving the great state of North Dakota in our legislature.

Julie Traynor, MS, RN, CNE, Director, Dakota Nursing Consortium

[Julie.traynor@lrsc.edu](mailto:Julie.traynor@lrsc.edu)

701-230-1739





✧ 1912-2023 ✧  
1515 Burnt Boat Drive  
Suite C #325  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
701-335-6376

Testimony in Support of SB 2288  
Senate Workforce Development Committee

January 26, 2023

Chairman Wobbema and Senate Workforce Development Committee Members:

Good morning. My name is Sherri Miller. I would like to address you today in support of SB 2288. I am representing a part of the healthcare team that makes up the largest group of professionals, nurses. I have been a registered nurse in North Dakota for 24 years. I am also the Executive Director for the North Dakota Nurses Association. The NDNA is the only professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota. Part of our mission is to advance the nursing profession by promoting the professional development of nurses and to advocate on health care issues affecting nurses and the public. Right now, we are actively advocating for the nursing workforce with recruitment and retention tactics.

As has been previously mentioned, our state is in a nursing shortage due to many factors. The Nursing Program Matching Grants is inclusive to all providers of nursing education and allows more efforts to support nurses in North Dakota including private universities and Career Technical Education.

If we can do this well, we can keep people in our state by growing our own nurses rather than relying so much on travelers and international nurses.

We respectfully ask you to pas SB 2288, the Nursing Program Matching Grants.

This concludes my testimony.

Sherri Miller, BS, BSN, RN  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Nurses Association

**Comments to the North Dakota Senate Workforce Development Committee**

**Sen. Mike Wobbema, Chair**

**Submitted by DeAnna Carlson Zink, CEO of the UND Alumni Association & Foundation**

**Submitted January 26, 2023**

Chair Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 2288, which would provide appropriations for matching grants for nursing programs around the state, including at the University of North Dakota. What an excellent way to harness the power of philanthropy to work with the state on this critical workforce initiative.

As the leader of the non-profit dedicated to raising funds in support of UND students, I can attest to the value of public/private partnerships as a catalyst for donations from alumni and friends of the University.

Time and time again, we have encountered alumni who have given for the first time or increased the size of their gift due to the ability to have their gift increased with a state match.

A grant program that targets nursing programs is an excellent way to begin addressing the critical shortage of nurses in the state.

The University of North Dakota has been educating nurses for more than 110 years, and our alumni stand ready to support this program in concert with the state of North Dakota. Let's tackle this pressing issue together to ensure a stable supply of outstanding nurses.

Thank you.

DeAnna Carlson Zink  
Chief Executive Officer  
University of North Dakota Alumni Association & Foundation  
[deannac@undfoundation.org](mailto:deannac@undfoundation.org)  
701.740.4682



**2023 Senate Bill 2288**  
**Senate Workforce Development Committee**  
**Senator Michael Wobbema, Chairman**  
**January 26, 2023**

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I testify in support of Senate Bill 2288 and ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support this bill because it helps with our number one challenge: workforce.

To give an idea of how big this challenge is specifically in nursing, NDHA conducted a survey last summer. It showed that there were 1,326 nurse openings throughout the state. And hospitals contracted with staffing agencies for another 717 nurses. In total, hospitals have over 2,000 nurse openings.

The lack of nurses challenges our hospitals in both the rural and urban areas. Urban hospital wages have increased \$382 million since 2019, mainly due to contract labor. The escalating cost of contracted nursing staff and the upward pressure it puts on wages is not sustainable.

I do not have the magical answer to fill all these openings but adding state funds to supplement funds raised by the foundations of higher education institutions for projects dedicated to the advancement of nursing programs will be helpful in solving the nurse shortage.

Please give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association



North Dakota Senate Workforce Development Committee  
 Chairman Michael Wobbema  
 January 26, 2023

**Re: Senate Bill 2288**

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee,

My name is Dr. Polly Peterson, President of the University of Jamestown. I write in support of SB 2288 which would establish a challenge grant program specifically for nursing students. I would like to ask for the committee's support for including all of North Dakota's accredited higher education institutions as eligible applicants for this challenge grant program.

**Leveraging Private Donations**

The decision to include private, North Dakota-based universities in the nursing challenge grant program would allow our foundation to further leverage contributions from individuals—just as the public institutions do. When a donor desires to give to the University of Jamestown's foundation to support nursing students, those dollars will go even further thanks to the state's support.

**Scholarships For ND Grads**

Nursing challenge grant funding would not be the first public funding to support students at the University of Jamestown. Jimmie students access four of North Dakota's seven scholarship offerings. In fact, a recent data pull from the NDUS office shows that between 2020-2022, a total of \$6.64 million, or 10% of North Dakota's total scholarship funds, are going to students at the University of Jamestown, the University of Mary, and Trinity Bible College. On average, \$1.42 million is disbursed to U Mary students each year, \$718,000 to students at UJ, and \$72,000 to Trinity Bible College students. State dollars are already assisting private college students through our scholarship programs—because they are all North Dakota students.

If included, we propose to use the nursing challenge grants exclusively for nursing student scholarships, thereby eliminating any question regarding the eligibility of private university participation in this program.

**Graduates for Workforce**

The University of Jamestown has 1,275 students in 44 majors, 3 masters, and 2 doctoral programs. UJ has approximately 250 employees and an economic impact in excess of \$110m.

Our students are an integral part of our communities. Our retention of students in the state after graduation exceeds 70%.

Nearly 250 students have graduated from the University of Jamestown with nursing degrees in the last 8 years. When workforce challenges abound in this critical-care field, we should be prioritizing every effort to retain North Dakota high school students at relevant in-state higher education programs.

In closing, we support challenge grants as a wonderful tool for higher education in North Dakota. **We thank Senator Roers for her proposal and would greatly appreciate your consideration to include all of North Dakota's accredited higher education institutions in the nursing challenge grant program.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Polly Peterson  
President University of Jamestown

**January 26, 2023, ND Senate Workforce Development Committee**

**SB 2288: Nursing Program Matching Grant**

**Testimony by Rick Hedberg, Minot State University Development Foundation**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Rick Hedberg and I'm VP for Advancement and Executive Director of the Minot State University Development Foundation. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of SB 2288 and the nursing matching grant program.

At the Minot State University Development Foundation, we have seen, first hand, the benefit of the state matching grant program. I can speak on behalf of our institution in saying that the challenge grant program is one of the top initiatives that has come out of our legislative assembly in the last decade. There really is no argument of this point on our campus and with our donors. To create a matching grant program specifically for nursing has some real advantages.

First, I'd like to touch on the success of the challenge grant at Minot State University. We have tripled the size of our endowment over the last decade. In 2013, the assets of our foundation were at approximately \$18M. In 2023, following an extremely tough year of investing, we currently have assets of over \$54M. I can attest that this increase is due in large part to the matching funds available through the ND Challenge Grant. Furthermore, a majority of our assets are located in endowment funds, funds that are invested in perpetuity allowing for a steady and long-term income stream for our campus. I think you will find this same strategy at all University and College foundations across our system. Our endowments are critical to our long-term viability and sustainability. These endowments will provide a solid foundation for several decades to come.

We've been blessed to connect with some amazing donors over the last decade and many of these donors see the value in supporting our nursing program. We've been fortunate to add a number of endowment funds to support our nursing department through scholarship support and operating and equipment support but we need to do more. This bill would provide us with another tool to entice individuals to give in support of a critical area. The Covid pandemic strengthened our belief in the importance of nursing. Anything we can do to support our future nurses is a positive move. I believe SB 2288 will do just that and I ask for your support of this bill. If there is one suggestion I could respectfully make regarding this bill, it would be to ask for your consideration of additional funding. With virtually all NDUS campuses having nursing programs, the funding will go quickly. Regardless, any support would be appreciated and will make a difference.

We are on the cusp of the largest wealth transfer in the history of our country. Reports show that baby boomers will be passing over \$68 trillion onto their heirs over the next 25 years. If our foundations have the proper tools such as this matching fund, we could see a significant amount coming to our campuses. Again, I ask for your support of SB 2288. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Department of Nursing

Good morning, Senator Wobbema and the Senate Workforce Development Committee members. My name is Amy Lee, I live in Minot, and I am the Chair of the Nursing Department at Minot State University (MSU). I support senate bill 2288, which would award matching funds dedicated to advancing academics for nursing programs. The current nursing shortage is evident throughout North Dakota, and the demand for nurses is only expected to increase in the next few years. As nursing faculty members, we are committed to educating safe and competent nurses to care for our communities. Additional resources, such as this bill, would provide scholarships and educational opportunities to support nursing education. It will also support continued workforce development with outreach and recruitment.

In nursing programs, clinical experiences in the hospital help to train and educate. However, clinical placement is often difficult to schedule because many programs use the same facilities and preceptors are overtasked or underqualified as new graduates. Over the past few years, nursing programs have declined admission to eligible applicants for one of two reasons- lack of clinical accommodations or lack of qualified faculty. In 2021, the North Dakota Board of Nursing reported 200 eligible nursing applicants were declined admission in part due to these barriers. Simulation can be used to supplement clinical hour requirements in nursing programs. Unfortunately, the simulators and equipment required to create a realistic learning environment are expensive to purchase and maintain. This bill would support nursing programs with additional resources to educate and train safe nurses in labs and simulation activities.

In addition to providing quality education and experiences for our pre-licensure students, MSU also collaborates with local high schools to provide workforce development opportunities. Some examples of our community collaboration include an interactive escape room for medical career students, open house tours, and a guaranteed admission program for graduates of North Dakota high schools.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill and support nursing programs to educate the nurses of the future. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy S. Lee".

Amy S. Lee MSN, RN, CNE  
Department of Nursing Chair  
Minot State University  
701-858-3259  
amy.s.lee@minotstateu.edu

23.0927.01001

Sixty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO. 2288**

Introduced by

Senators K. Roers, Hogue

Representatives Boschee, Rohr

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 15-10-48.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to nursing program matching grants; and to provide an appropriation.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 15-10-48.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted  
5 as follows:

6 1. Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board of higher education shall award  
7 one dollar in matching grants for every two dollars raised by ~~the institutional-~~  
8 ~~foundations of institutions under the control of the state board of higher~~  
9 ~~education~~ accredited institutions of higher education in this state for projects dedicated  
10 exclusively to the advancement of academics for each institution's nursing program.

11 2. To be eligible for a matching grant, an institution must demonstrate:

12 a. ~~Its foundation~~ It has raised at least twenty-five thousand dollars in cash or  
13 monetary pledges for a qualifying project; and

14 b. The project has been approved by the grant review committee established in  
15 section 15-10-51.

16 3. a. The board shall consider each application submitted under this section in  
17 chronological order.

18 b. If the remaining dollars are insufficient to provide a matching grant in the amount  
19 of one dollar for every two dollars raised by the ~~institutional foundation~~ institution,  
20 the board shall award a lesser amount.

21 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - NURSING**  
22 **PROGRAM MATCHING GRANTS.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund  
23 in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum  
24 as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of providing



**Comments to the North Dakota Senate Appropriations  
Education and Environment Division  
Sen. Ron Sorvaag, Chair**

**Submitted by  
Maridee Shogren, Dean of the University of North Dakota  
College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines**

**Submitted February 6, 2023**

Chair Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division:

I am writing in support of SB 2288, which would provide appropriations for the Nursing Program Matching Grants. My name is Maridee Shogren, DNP, CNM, CLC. I am the dean of the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines (CNPD) at the University of North Dakota. I have been with the CNPD for over 14 years and have helped to educate hundreds of registered nurses, many of whom are employed in the state of North Dakota.

The nursing workforce shortages that we are experiencing in our state require multiple levels of innovative problem-solving and collaboration among academic nursing programs, community healthcare organizations, state officials, and our institutional foundations. North Dakota's rural communities are particularly affected by nursing staffing issues and could greatly benefit from a nursing matching grant program that would help draw graduate nurses into local healthcare organizations like hospitals, public health departments, clinics and long-term care facilities.

For example, Nursing Program Matching Grants could help stimulate collaborative discussions between communities, who often have administrators that are alumni of our North Dakota academic institutions, and nursing students who may be interested in working in their local communities. Matching grant funds, for instance, could provide financial support for students to purchase nursing uniforms, textbooks and educational resources, and medical equipment-expenses that can cost over \$2,000 during the first semester of a nursing program. In addition, stipends could support student experiences in rural healthcare agencies that may not have been considered by students because of the associated travel costs. Stipends to support nursing preceptors could also be greatly beneficial as nursing programs are constantly seeking new preceptors and additional clinical placement opportunities, especially in our rural agencies, and could support nursing program growth.

Thank you for your time and attention to nursing workforce concerns and thoughtful consideration of innovative avenues to support our nursing students and our nursing academic programs.

Maridee Shogren DNP, CNM, CLC (701-777-4529); [maridee.shogren@und.edu](mailto:maridee.shogren@und.edu)  
Dean and Clinical Professor, UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines

**Comments to the North Dakota Senate Appropriations  
Education and Environment Division  
Sen. Ron Sorvaag, Chair**

**Submitted by  
Kris Hendrickx, Graduate Nursing Chair at the University of North Dakota  
College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines**

**Submitted February 6, 2023**

Chair Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division:

I am writing in support of SB 2288, which would provide appropriations for the Nursing Program Matching Grants. My name is Kris Hendrickx, DNP, ACNS-BC, FLAGF. I am the chair of the graduate nursing department in the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines (CNPD) at the University of North Dakota. I have been with the CNPD for over 17 years and have helped to educate hundreds of registered and advanced practice nurses, many of whom are employed in the state of North Dakota.

The nursing workforce shortages that we are experiencing in our state require multiple levels of innovative problem-solving and collaboration among academic nursing programs, community healthcare organizations, state officials, and our institutional foundations. North Dakota's rural communities are particularly affected by nursing staffing issues and could greatly benefit from a nursing matching grant program that would help draw graduate nurses into local healthcare organizations like hospitals, public health departments, clinics and long-term care facilities.

For example, Nursing Program Matching Grants could help stimulate collaborative discussions between communities, who often have administrators who are alumni of our North Dakota academic institutions, and nursing students who may be interested in working in their local communities. Matching grant funds, for instance, could provide financial support for students to purchase nursing uniforms, textbooks and educational resources, and medical equipment-expenses that can cost over \$2,000 during the first semester of a nursing program. In addition, stipends could support student experiences in rural healthcare agencies that may not have been considered by students because of the associated travel costs. Stipends to support nursing preceptors could also be greatly beneficial as nursing programs are constantly seeking new preceptors and additional clinical placement opportunities, especially in our rural agencies, and could support nursing program growth.

Thank you for your time and attention to nursing workforce concerns and thoughtful consideration of innovative avenues to support our nursing students and our nursing academic programs.

Kris Hendrickx, DNP, ACNS, FLAGF (701-777-2403); [kris.hendrickx@und.edu](mailto:kris.hendrickx@und.edu)  
Graduate Nursing Chair and Clinical Associate Professor, UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines

**February 6, 2023, ND Senate Appropriations**

**SB 2288: Nursing Program Matching Grant**

**Testimony by Rick Hedberg, Minot State University Development Foundation**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Rick Hedberg and I'm VP for Advancement and Executive Director of the Minot State University Development Foundation. Thank you for allowing me to share this testimony in support of SB 2288 and the nursing matching grant program.

At the Minot State University Development Foundation, we have seen, first hand, the benefit of the state matching grant program. I can speak on behalf of our institution in saying that the challenge grant program is one of the top initiatives that has come out of our legislative assembly in the last decade. There really is no argument of this point on our campus and with our donors. To create a matching grant program specifically for nursing has some real advantages.

First, I'd like to touch on the success of the challenge grant at Minot State University. We have tripled the size of our endowment over the last decade. In 2013, the assets of our foundation were at approximately \$18M. In 2023, following an extremely tough year of investing, we currently have assets of over \$54M. I can attest that this increase is due in large part to the matching funds available through the ND Challenge Grant. Furthermore, a majority of our assets are located in endowment funds, funds that are invested in perpetuity allowing for a steady and long-term income stream for our campus. I think you will find this same strategy at all University and College foundations across our system. Our endowments are critical to our long-term viability and sustainability. These endowments will provide a solid foundation for several decades to come.

We've been blessed to connect with some amazing donors over the last decade and many of these donors see the value in supporting our nursing program. We've been fortunate to add a number of endowment funds to support our nursing department through scholarship support and operating and equipment support but we need to do more. This bill would provide us with another tool to entice individuals to give in support of a critical area. The Covid pandemic strengthened our belief in the importance of nursing. Anything we can do to support our future nurses is a positive move. I believe SB 2288 will do just that and I ask for your support of this bill. If there is one suggestion I could respectfully make regarding this bill, it would be to ask for your consideration of additional funding. With virtually all NDUS campuses having nursing programs, the funding will go quickly. Regardless, any support would be appreciated and will make a difference.

We are on the cusp of the largest wealth transfer in the history of our country. Reports show that baby boomers will be passing over \$68 trillion onto their heirs over the next 25 years. If our foundations have the proper tools such as this matching fund, we could see a significant amount coming to our campuses. Again, I ask for your support of SB 2288. Thank you for your time and consideration.



**2023 Senate Bill 2288**  
**Senate Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division**  
**Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman**  
**February 6, 2023**

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). We support Senate Bill 2288 and ask that you give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support this bill because it helps with our number one challenge: workforce.

To give an idea of how big this challenge is specifically in nursing, NDHA conducted a survey last summer. It showed that there were 1,326 nurse openings throughout the state. And hospitals contracted with staffing agencies for another 717 nurses. In total, hospitals have over 2,000 nurse openings.

The lack of nurses challenges our hospitals in both the rural and urban areas. Urban hospital wages have increased \$382 million since 2019, mainly due to contract labor. The escalating cost of contracted nursing staff and the upward pressure it puts on wages is not sustainable.

I do not have the magical answer to fill all these openings but adding state funds to supplement funds raised by the foundations of higher education institutions for projects dedicated to the advancement of nursing programs will be helpful in solving the nurse shortage.

Please give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association



North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee  
Chairman Brad Bekkedahl  
February 6, 2023

**Re: Senate Bill 2288**

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tena Lawrence and I am the Executive Vice President of the University of Jamestown. I am here in support of SB 2288 which would establish a challenge grant program designed specifically for nursing students. We are grateful for the inclusion of all of North Dakota's accredited higher education institutions as eligible entities for selection by the state's nursing students.

**Graduates for Workforce**

The University of Jamestown has 1,275 students in 44 majors, 3 masters, and 2 doctoral programs. UJ has approximately 250 employees and an economic impact in excess of \$110m. Our students are an integral part of our communities. Our retention of students in the state after graduation exceeds 70%.

Nearly 250 students have graduated from the University of Jamestown with nursing degrees in the last 8 years. As the nursing shortage continues and workforce challenges abound in this critical-care field, we should be prioritizing every effort to retain interested students at in-state higher education nursing programs.

**Leveraging Private Donations**

The decision to include all accredited North Dakota universities in the nursing challenge grant program would allow our foundation to further leverage contributions from individuals—just as the public institutions do—to further support our nursing students. When a donor desires to give to the University of Jamestown's foundation, those dollars will go even further, thanks to the state's support.

In closing, we support challenge grants as a wonderful tool for higher education in North Dakota and hope you will concur. We would greatly appreciate your consideration in moving this program forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tena Lawrence  
Executive Vice President, University of Jamestown

# NDSU | SCHOOL OF NURSING

Good morning Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Education and Environment Committee.

My name is Charys Kunkel. I live in New Salem, ND, and am the Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck. I am also speaking on behalf of Carla Gross, Associate Dean for the NDSU School of Nursing in Fargo, who is attending virtually. We are testifying in support of Senate bill 2288, which will award matching funds to nursing programs for projects that advance nursing education.

Nursing education serves as the pipeline to meet nursing workforce needs. As you are well aware, there is a critical nursing shortage that is expected to escalate in the years to come. The fact that there is a shortage of nursing faculty from those retiring and leaving the field adds to this critical nursing shortage. Nursing programs in North Dakota have expanded student enrollments over the past ten years to meet workforce needs, even though our budgets have not expanded to match. In addition, the costs of high-fidelity simulation labs and equipment have increased substantially over the past ten years. High-fidelity simulation supplements clinical experiences by providing students with a safe place to practice nursing skills while being exposed to common and complex clinical experiences. This bill will support nursing programs with funding to meet critical needs in nursing education or to expand their programs.

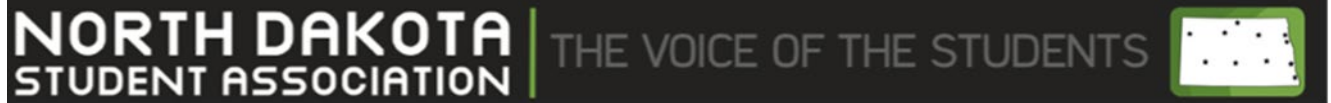
As a land grant university, NDSU is committed to meeting the workforce needs of the state. Since 2015, NDSU has expanded our Pre-Licensure BSN program, doubling the number of students admitted to Fargo. The Bismarck site was added to meet the healthcare needs in western North Dakota. The nursing program has added an online RN to BSN program to advance nursing knowledge and has established a highly respected online LPN to BSN program. Both of these online programs meet the needs of place-bound students who are often from rural or underserved areas. In addition, the School of Nursing has a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program that is offered in Fargo and Bismarck. Past grant efforts within the FNP program have been used to place students in rural areas for their practicum experiences and to increase the supply of advanced care providers in these areas. Our current HRSA grant provides Family Nurse Practitioners with a residency program that gives them the advanced skills needed to provide care in rural areas, including emergent and acute care settings. The NDSU School of Nursing is committed to continue exploring new programs or projects to increase enrollment capacity and recruitment efforts. It is our ultimate goal to educate excellent nurses who are practice ready.

With all due respect, we ask you to vote in favor of this bill. The funding will provide support to nursing programs across the state to educate future nurses.

This concludes my testimony,

Charys Kunkel, Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford

Carla Gross, Associate Dean, NDSU School of Nursing



## **SB 2288**

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Christopher Scott, North Dakota Student Association

701-340-3380 | [Christopher.m.scott@ndus.edu](mailto:Christopher.m.scott@ndus.edu)

Chair Bekkedahl and Members of the Committee: My name is Christopher Scott. I am current President of the North Dakota Student Association, and I am writing this in support of SB 2288. If passed, this bill would create an allocation for a matching grant gearing at helping the advancement of an institutions nursing program.

The North Dakota Student Association was established in 1969 dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects Higher Education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions meeting monthly to engage students in ND Higher Education policy. Our mission is to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to give a student perspective on higher education policy.

Traditionally, the NDSA has supported various scholarships over the years. One of the programs we have supported over the years is the Challenge Grant, which is a matching grant program that is very similar to the one proposed in this bill but more broad. This bill directly targets funding NDUS nursing programs and would help address workforce shortages in that area.

In the last few years, we as a state have recognized the need for more nurses and medical care staff. This was made especially clear during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic two years ago, when nurses and medical care staff were overburdened due to the large influx of patients and a low quantity of staff. This bill would help increase the quality of our nursing programs across the state, attract more students including those from out of state, and thereby increase the total

number of medical care personnel in North Dakota. And so, the NDSA supports SB 2288 and would ask for a DO PASS recommendation from the committee.



# NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Good morning Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Education and Environment Committee.

My name is Charys Kunkel. I live in New Salem, ND and am the Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck. I am also speaking on behalf of Carla Gross, Associate Dean for the NDSU School of Nursing in Fargo who is attending virtually. We are testifying in support of Senate bill 2288 which will award matching funds to nursing programs for projects that advance nursing education.

Nursing education serves as the pipeline to meet nursing workforce needs. As you are all well aware, there is a critical nursing shortage that is expected to escalate in the years to come. The fact that there is a critical shortage of nursing faculty who are retiring and leaving the field, escalates the critical nursing shortage further. Nursing programs in North Dakota have expanded enrollments over the past ten years, even though our budgets have not expanded to match. In addition, costs of simulation labs and equipment have increased substantially over the past ten years. Simulation is used to supplement clinical experiences, offering students a safe place to practice nursing skills and exposure to common, complex, clinical experiences.

This bill will support nursing programs with funding to meet critical needs in nursing education or to expand their programs. As a land grant university, NDSU is committed to working to meet the workforce needs of the state. Since 2015, NDSU has expanded our Pre-Licensure BSN program, doubling the number of students admitted in Fargo. We've added a site in Bismarck in an effort to meet the healthcare needs in western North Dakota. We have added a RN to BSN online program to advance nursing knowledge and have established a highly respected online LPN to BSN program. Both of these online programs meet the needs of place bound students, often in rural or underserved areas. In addition, we have a Family Nurse Practitioner program that is offered in Fargo and Bismarck. NDSU had secured past grants aimed at placing FNP students in rural areas for practicum experiences in an effort to increase the supply of advance care providers in these areas. Our current HRSA grant provides Family Nurse Practitioners with a residency program that gives them advanced skills that are needed to provide care in rural areas such as elevated skills in primary and emergent care settings where they are independent providers. The NDSU School of Nursing is committed to continue exploring new programs or projects that will increase enrollment capacity and recruitment efforts to educate excellent nurses who are practice ready.

With all due respect, we ask you to vote in favor of this bill. The funding will provide support to nursing programs across the state that are educating future nurses.

This concludes our testimony,

Charys Kunkel, Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford

Carla Gross, Associate Dean, NDSU School of Nursing

#### SCHOOL OF NURSING

SCG D102 | 1919 N University Drive | NDSU Dept 2670 | PO Box 6050 | Fargo ND 58108-6050  
701.231.7395 | Fax 701.231.6257 | [www.ndsu.edu](http://www.ndsu.edu)



**2023 Senate Bill 2288**  
**House Education Committee**  
**Representative Pat Heinert, Chairman**  
**March 7, 2023**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I testify in support of Senate Bill 2288 and ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support this bill because it helps with our number one challenge: workforce.

To give an idea of how big this challenge is specifically in nursing, NDHA conducted a survey last summer. It showed that there were 1,326 nurse openings throughout the state. And hospitals contracted with staffing agencies for another 717 nurses. In total, hospitals have over 2,000 nurse openings.

The lack of nurses challenges our hospitals in both the rural and urban areas. Urban hospital wages have increased \$382 million since 2019, mainly due to contract labor. The escalating cost of contracted nursing staff and the upward pressure it puts on wages is not sustainable.

We appreciate the amendments to expand the matching grant program to all accredited providers of nursing education. I do not have the magical answer to fill all these nurse openings but adding state funds to supplement funds raised by the foundations of higher education institutions for projects dedicated to the advancement of nursing programs will be helpful in solving the shortage.

Please give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association

# NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Good morning Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee.

My name is Charys Kunkel. I live in New Salem, ND and am the Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck. I am also speaking on behalf of Carla Gross, Associate Dean for the NDSU School of Nursing in Fargo. We are testifying in support of Senate Bill 2288 which will award matching funds to nursing programs for projects that advance nursing education.

Nursing education serves as the pipeline in meeting nursing workforce needs. As you are all well aware there is a critical nursing shortage that is expected to escalate in the years to come. The fact that there is a critical shortage of nursing faculty who are aging and retiring escalates the critical nursing shortage. Nursing programs in North Dakota have expanded enrollments over the past ten years even though our budgets have not expanded to match. In addition, simulation costs have increased substantially over the past ten years. Simulation is used to supplement clinical experiences, offering students a safe place to practice nursing skills and exposure to common, complex, clinical experiences.

This bill will support nursing programs with funding to meet critical needs in nursing education or to expand programs. As a land grant university, NDSU is committed to working to meet the workforce needs of the state. Since 2015, NDSU has expanded the Pre-Licensure BSN program in Fargo doubling the number of students admitted. We have added a site in Bismarck in an effort to address the critical shortage of nurses in western North Dakota. NDSU also has RN to BSN and LPN to BSN tracks which are online programs designed to advance nursing knowledge and skills. Both of these online programs meet the needs of place bound students, often in rural or underserved communities. In addition, we have a Family Nurse Practitioner program that is offered in Fargo and Bismarck that aims to meet the need for primary care providers in our state. NDSU School of Nursing's mission is to improve the health of all people, including underserved, rural, and diverse populations. We are committed to continue exploring new programs that will meet the workforce needs of our state.

With all respect, we ask you to vote in favor of this bill. The funding will provide support to nursing programs across the state who are educating future nurses.

This concludes our testimony.

Sincerely,

Charys Kunkel, Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health, Bismarck  
(Charys.Kunkel@ndsu.edu)

Carla Gross, Associate Dean, NDSU School of Nursing  
(Carla.Gross@ndsu.edu)

#### SCHOOL OF NURSING

SCG D102 | 1919 N University Drive | NDSU Dept 2670 | PO Box 6050 | Fargo ND 58108-6050  
701.231.7395 | Fax 701.231.6257 | www.ndsu.edu



North Dakota House Education Committee  
Chairman Pat Heinert  
March 7, 2023

**Re: Senate Bill 2288**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Kresha Wiest and I am the Chief Financial Officer for the University of Jamestown. I am here in support of SB 2288 which would establish a challenge grant program designed specifically for nursing students. We are grateful for the inclusion of all of North Dakota's accredited higher education institutions as eligible entities for selection by the state's nursing students.

**Graduates for Workforce**

The University of Jamestown has 1,275 students in 44 majors, 3 masters, and 2 doctoral programs. UJ has approximately 250 employees and an economic impact in excess of \$110m. Our students are an integral part of our communities. Our retention of students in the state after graduation exceeds 70%.

Nearly 250 students have graduated from the University of Jamestown with nursing degrees in the last 8 years. As the nursing shortage continues and workforce challenges abound in this critical-care field, we should be prioritizing every effort to retain interested students at in-state higher education nursing programs.

**Leveraging Private Donations**

The decision to include all accredited North Dakota universities in the nursing challenge grant program would allow our foundation to further leverage contributions from individuals—just as the public institutions do—to further support our nursing students. When a donor desires to give to the University of Jamestown's foundation, those dollars will go even further, thanks to the state's support.

In closing, we support challenge grants as a wonderful tool for higher education in North Dakota and hope you will concur. We would greatly appreciate your consideration in moving this program forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kresha Wiest  
Chief Financial Officer, University of Jamestown



✧ 1912-2023 ✧  
1515 Burnt Boat Drive  
Suite C #325  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
701-335-6376

Testimony in Support of SB 2288  
House Education Committee

March 7, 2023

Chairman Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Sherri Miller. I am writing in support of SB 2288. I have been a registered nurse in North Dakota for 24 years, and I am also the Executive Director for the North Dakota Nurses Association.

The NDNA is the only professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota. Part of our mission is to advance the nursing profession by promoting the professional development of nurses and to advocate on health care issues affecting nurses and the public. Right now, we are actively advocating for the nursing workforce with recruitment and retention tactics.

Nurses make up the largest group of healthcare professionals. Our state is in a dire nursing shortage due to many factors. This unprecedented shortage is a multi-faceted issue having a cascading effect on North Dakota's workforce, communities, and the economy. The Nursing Challenge Grant Bill is inclusive to all providers of nursing education and allows more efforts to support nurses in North Dakota including private universities and Career Technical Education.

If we can do this well, we can keep people in our state by growing our own nurses rather than relying so much on travelers and international nurses.

We respectfully ask you to pass SB 2288. Thank you.

Sherri Miller, BS, BSN, RN  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Nurses Association

House Education Committee  
Chairman – Representative Pat Heinert  
March 7, 2023

Testimony of:

Shane Goettle - Lobbyist  
University of Mary  
[sgoettle@odney.com](mailto:sgoettle@odney.com)  
(701) 426-0576

**SB 2288**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Shane Goettle and I am here as a registered lobbyist for the University of Mary. I am here today to support a “DO PASS” recommendation on Senate Bill 2288.

For over 60 years, the University of Mary has been training outstanding nursing professionals proficient in direct care, health education, and administration. The University of Mary’s nursing program – within the Saint Gianna School of Health Sciences – integrates in-class instruction, hands-on experience, and cutting-edge simulation techniques to cultivate professional competence, intellectual depth, and moral courage. This is all fulfilled within our Christian, Catholic, and Benedictine identity and mission.

An education from the Saint Gianna School of Health Sciences school prepares students for a career as highly competent, caring, and ethical health care professionals. Inspired by and under the patronage of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla – a physician, wife, and mother – the University of Mary provides an education of excellence for servant leaders who uphold the dignity of human life and will transform health care for everyone at each stage of life.

University of Mary students gain practical experience in clinical settings throughout the region and beyond — and make a positive impact on people’s lives — through internships and practicums; service trips and pro bono clinics; and collaborative projects across the university. In addition to professional training with experienced faculty and cutting-edge technology, students are immersed in the Benedictine values that will lay the foundation for virtuous leadership in their career.

The University of Mary supports the nursing program matching grants. We appreciate the inclusive nature of this bill in that it applies to all nursing programs in the state. This will reduce financial barriers for those who are inclined to pursue a nursing career – which we need more of in the region.

We urge the committee to give SB 2288 a “DO PASS” recommendation.



**Faith Wahl** | UND Student Body President  
[Faith.wahl@und.edu](mailto:Faith.wahl@und.edu) | 701.426.9123

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Faith Wahl, and I serve as the Student Body President at the University of North Dakota (UND). I am providing testimony supporting SB 2288, relating to nursing program matching grants.

SB 2288 proposes awarding one dollar in matching grants for every two dollars raised by accredited institutions of higher education in North Dakota for projects dedicated exclusively to the advancement of academics for each institution's nursing program. If passed, this program would be extremely beneficial for UND students for several reasons. First, UND is ranked as the "#1 Top Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in ND by nurse.org" [1]. As the top-ranked nursing program in the state, UND currently attracts a national audience to the state for the high-quality education program. If SB 2288 were passed, the program would create additional incentives to recruit and retain students to North Dakota and help address critical workforce needs in the state. Passing SB 2288 would not only benefit nursing students and programs throughout the state but would indicate an investment in the state and the future care of its' population.

In addition to helping recruitment efforts for the state and advancing academic programs, SB 2288 follows a model of a similar program that uses state-appropriated funds to incentivize private donors to give back to institutions – the Challenge Grant. Established in 2013, the Challenge Grant has helped provide North Dakota institutions with scholarships for students, research, technology, educational infrastructure, and more [2]. The successful model of the Challenge Grant that parallels the matching grant program outlined in SB 2288 indicates that this bill would also be successful in incentivizing private donors to give back and have their donations matched by the state. As the top nursing program in the state, it is clear that UND and its nursing students would benefit from the scholarship opportunities, innovative technology, and updated educational infrastructure that could come as a result of SB 2288.

[1] <https://und.edu/programs/nursing-bsn/index.html>

[2] [https://ndlegis.gov/files/committees/67-2021/23\\_5162\\_03000appendixk.pdf](https://ndlegis.gov/files/committees/67-2021/23_5162_03000appendixk.pdf)

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education committee, I respectfully request a **DO PASS on SB 2288**. Thank you for your time, and I am available to answer any questions that you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

*Faith Wahl*

UND Student Body President

[1] <https://und.edu/programs/nursing-bsn/index.html>

[2] [https://ndlegis.gov/files/committees/67-2021/23\\_5162\\_03000appendixk.pdf](https://ndlegis.gov/files/committees/67-2021/23_5162_03000appendixk.pdf)





Department of Nursing

Good morning, Chairman and the House Education Committee members. My name is Amy Lee, I live in Minot, and I am the Chair of the Nursing Department at Minot State University. I support senate bill 2288, which would award matching funds dedicated to advancing academics for nursing programs. The current nursing shortage is evident throughout North Dakota, and the demand for nurses is only expected to increase in the next few years. As nursing faculty members, we are committed to educating safe and competent nurses to care for our communities. Additional resources, such as this bill, would provide scholarships and educational opportunities to support nursing education. It will also support continued workforce development with outreach and recruitment.

In nursing programs, clinical experiences in the hospital help to train and educate. However, clinical placement is often difficult to schedule because many programs use the same facility. Over the past few years, nursing programs have declined admission to eligible applicants for one of two reasons- lack of clinical accommodations or lack of qualified faculty. In 2021, the North Dakota Board of Nursing reported 200 eligible nursing applicants were declined admission in part due to these barriers. Simulation can be used to supplement clinical hour requirements in nursing programs. Unfortunately, the simulators and equipment required to create a realistic learning environment are expensive to purchase and maintain. This bill would support nursing programs with additional resources to educate and train safe nurses in labs and simulation activities.

In addition to providing quality education and experiences for our pre-licensure students, we also collaborate with local high schools to provide workforce development opportunities. Examples include an interactive escape room experience, open house tours, and a guaranteed admission program for graduates of North Dakota high schools. Additional resources, such as this bill will continue to support these efforts.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill and support nursing programs to educate the nurses of the future. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

*Amy Lee MSN, RN, CNE*

March 6, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of SB 2288

Dear Chairman Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the Education Committee,

I'm Dr. Beth Sanford, President-Elect of the North Dakota Nurses Association and a member of the Nursing Recruitment and Retention committee, comprised of members of other state nursing associations.

We are bringing forward this bill SB2288, regarding the funding of a Nursing-Only Challenge grant, as an immediate strategy to support the building of North Dakota's nursing workforce to meet staffing demands.

As you may be familiar, higher education challenge grants incentivize benefactors to show a return on investment with a 50% match from the state. Higher education grants can support:

- Nursing Education Endowments, which produce a sustainable model for nursing scholarships.
  - Scholarships support student decision-making to pursue nursing as a profession.
- Educational informatics infrastructure providing matching grants for high-dollar lab and informatics equipment for providers of nursing education.

This bill as amended in the Senate allows for a nursing-only challenge grant and amendment for a verbiage change for nursing to say, "providers of nursing education" to include additional providers of nursing education with our many private institutions and allow for future options for Career and Technical Education partnerships.

Some communities may choose to pursue an innovative program to offer a Practical Nursing certificate as part of a higher education/Career and Technical Education partnership program. Key stakeholders are looking at options that meet North Dakota Century Code requirements in building such partnerships, which would have to meet licensure requirements for both the Board of Nursing and secondary education.

Similar programs already exist across the US, allowing students to complete/begin a practical nursing degree (typically 1-2 years) in high school. Research shows such programs in other states, for LPN (WI, NY, LA) and EMT (Minnesota), retain talent in the local community.

The profession of nursing needs to do something drastic now to encourage North Dakota residents and residents of other states to enter the profession and choose to live and work in North Dakota.

A nursing-only challenge grant would entice benefactors by stretching their dollars further when donating to nursing education in North Dakota and allow providers of nursing education to expand programs to meet the needs of the workforce in 2023 in creative and innovative ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Can I answer any questions?

Beth Sanford, DNP, MSN, RN, ACN, CLC

President-Elect of the North Dakota Nurses Association