

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2125 - Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**Senator Lee, Chairman**  
**January 12, 2021**

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Rosalie Etherington, Superintendent of the North Dakota State Hospital (NDSH) of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here on behalf of the Department in support for Senate Bill 2125.

The North Dakota State Hospital and the Human Service Center clinicians have recurrently benefited from the health care professional student loan repayment program. This program has helped us recruit and retain physicians, addiction counselors, psychologists, and nurses.

North Dakota has a healthcare provider shortage statewide. Student loan repayment, although one solution of many, is key for attracting and retaining healthcare professionals, particularly in our rural areas.

Adding licensed behavior analysts to the list of eligible recipients supports the needs of North Dakota to attract and retain them in our workforce. The extreme shortage of licensed behavior analysts negatively impacts the needs of individuals with intellectual and behavioral health disabilities. Please vote do pass on Senate Bill 2125.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.