

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2094 – Department of Human Services**  
**House Human Services Committee**  
**Representative Weisz, Chairman**  
**February 16, 2009**

Chairman Weisz, members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Alex C. Schweitzer, Superintendent of the North Dakota State Hospital and North Dakota Developmental Center of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you testimony in support of Senate Bill 2094.

This bill would exempt direct training technicians or vocational training technicians at the North Dakota Developmental Center who provide medications to individuals from the requirements of the Nurse Practices Act. Currently, the statute exempts direct care staff in correctional facilities, psychiatric residential treatment facilities for children, group homes for the developmentally disabled, residential child care facilities and adult foster care homes who provide medications to individuals from the requirements of the Nurse Practices Act.

This change in the statute would put the staff at the North Dakota Developmental Center on equal footing with staff in other care facilities who provide the same type of service. Direct Training Technicians and Vocational Training Technicians at the Developmental Center are trained for the provision of medications through a comprehensive training program taught by a registered nurse.

The change in statute was reviewed and discussed with the North Dakota Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing presented support for the change in statute in the Senate Human Services Committee hearing. The Board of Nursing also requested that the bill be amended to require that the Center's training program be approved by the Department of Human Services. The Senate amended the bill to meet this request.

I would be happy to answer any questions.