



July 20, 2016

Governor Dugaard's Primary Care Task Force Oversight Committee
Attn: Susan Sporrer, Division of Administration
South Dakota Department of Health
600 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: South Dakota Nursing Demand

Dear Ms. Sporrer:

On behalf of our 53 hospitals, health systems and 34 post-acute care providers, the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ongoing critical need for nurses in South Dakota. Healthcare workforce is a growing challenge throughout the state and the demand for nurses continues with the growth in chronic health conditions.

To ensure there are enough nurses to meet these needs there should be:

- An adequate number of nursing students entering college, or technical school programs. Increase promotional efforts on mentoring programs for the opportunity for students to experience a clinical setting.
- Opportunities to train in a rural community but more importantly living in a rural community. Expand opportunities for nursing students to gain exposure to train in rural and underserved areas.
- Coordinated efforts in recruitment and retention focusing on the value of living in a rural community. Increase efforts in community housing developments. A possible solution is to diminish Governor House regulations so hospitals and nursing homes could purchase homes for healthcare workers.

SDAHO recognizes and continually supports the ongoing accomplishments of the taskforce such as the: Rural Experience for Health Professions Students (REHPS); USD Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM) Student Expansion; Frontier and Rural Medicine (FARM) Program; Recruitment Programs such as Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program (RHFRAP) and the Recruitment Assistance Program; Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and the Rural Residency Track in Pierre, SD.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S.A. Duke'.

Scott A. Duke
President/CEO