

Dear Madam Chairman and Members of the Human Services Committee,

As we approach the hearing on HB 1465, I find myself excited for the possibility of North Dakota healthcare moving in a direction where patients can choose their healthcare provider based on a multitude of factors. As a healthcare professional and a patient myself, I know there is no single best institution for the wide array of conditions and injuries a person can endure. I have spent the majority of my professional career in Fargo as an Ambulatory Surgery Center Administrator and find my time consumed with insurance network issues on a day to day basis. Many patients approach us for our expertise and we are unable to help them due to their narrow network of providers, even though we are almost always the lower cost option.

Narrow networks, when based on the logo on the outside of the healthcare provider's institution, ignore the individual provider's quality, decreases access, and assumes the patient's experience will be sufficient even if there may be a more qualified healthcare provider across the street. In a state as rural as North Dakota, I ask you take this opportunity to remove barriers to care and put our focus on what's most important, the patient.

Thank you for all you do to make North Dakota a better place to live. I ask for your support and a "Do Pass" on HB 1465.

Sincerely,

Jed LaPlante, MHA  
Administrator  
Center for Special Surgery  
Cell: 218-205-7084  
Fargo, ND