



**2023 House Bill 1261**  
**House Human Services Committee**  
**Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman**  
**January 16, 2023**

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I testify in support of House Bill 1261 and ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

NDHA supports this bill because it allows for reimbursement for services in institutions of mental diseases (IMDs) for Medicaid beneficiaries between the ages of twenty-one and sixty four.

An IMD is a hospital, nursing facility, or other institution of more than 16 beds, that is primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases. We currently have four facilities within North Dakota that are considered IMDs.

- State Hospital
- Prairie St. John's – Fargo
- ShareHouse – Fargo
- Summit Prairie Recovery Center – Raleigh

NDHA supports eliminating what is called the IMD exclusion in the facilities above which prohibits reimbursement for Medicaid patients (ages 21-64). It makes no sense from a policy perspective to limit the settings where these services are provided.

Limiting access to community behavioral health facilities impacts the costs of care. The days of sending patients to facilities outside their community are no longer acceptable. It shouldn't matter whether a facility has 15 or 30 beds.

Please give the bill a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President  
North Dakota Hospital Association