

SENATE BILL NO. 2148

Presented by: Myra Quanrud MD FAAP, Medical Director, Anne Carlsen Jamestown

Before: Senate Human Services Committee, Senator Judy Lee, Chair

Date: January 24, 2023

Good morning, Senator Lee and members of the committee. My name is Dr Myra Quanrud, and I am a pediatrician and the medical director of Anne Carlsen in Jamestown. I stand today in support of Senate Bill 2148.

My primary patient population is children with special healthcare needs, medical complexity, and behavioral complexity. Most of these individuals are at Anne Carlsen, but a good number reside in the community, both in and around Jamestown. Meeting their healthcare needs in the regular clinic can be challenging because of the absence of specialized equipment and the difficulties coordinating with the many team members from different disciplines. Without this kind of support, a visit can take *hours* longer, or may require referral outside the community. With specialized support, care is streamlined, informed, and more efficient.

Another population difficult to serve well in the regular clinic is the young adult population transitioning from ACC back to the community. These individuals need time and collaboration to make a successful transition to community care. While community physicians are more than capable of providing primary

care to individuals with exceptional needs, they often have not had much experience in this area. A specialty clinic can provide the “bridge” so that the community provider may become comfortable with their specific needs, and the individual may become comfortable with their community provider.

Anne Carlsen is currently undergoing a major building project and one of our long-term goals has been to open a clinic to meet the needs of this very specific and special population. We would be able to take advantage of equipment at hand rather than duplicating, and we could pull team members in whenever needed for multidisciplinary care, rather than care fragmented into phone calls and photographs between experts. Evidence from the American Academy of Pediatrics has shown that care coordinated in this fashion is higher quality, more cost-effective, and more satisfying to patients and parents. In addition, ER visits are fewer as are hospitalization days.

Without an exemption to the law governing the corporate practice of medicine, this type of clinic is very difficult to establish. To date, the best option we have found is to establish a “friendly professional corporation” owned by the physician. This is daunting to say the least. And what happens when the physician retires?

With an exemption to the law, ACC could develop a specialty clinic with its own staff and resources, which would truly be of benefit to the individuals we serve and the community at large. Ann Carlsen stands strongly **in support of SB 2148**.

