

HB 1108

Good Morning Chairperson Lee and Honored Members of the Senate Human Services Committee.

For the record, I am Representative LaurieBeth Hager serving District 21 in Fargo and West Fargo. My district is in the middle area of Fargo -- the historic origin of the city of Fargo. It is along Main Avenue from the Red River to a corner of West Fargo. We are just south of Downtown and just north of West Acres Mall. One unique aspect of D21 is the dozens of service agencies in it. I bring to the Human Service Committee House Bill 1108. A bill to designate an interstate contract for the treatment of persons with substance use disorders or mental illness conditions.

As one knows there has been an increase in the number of individuals requiring mental health or substance abuse treatment. The boundaries between states should not hinder the access to treatment nor should the financial responsibility questions be a barrier to a person receiving treatment on either side of a river or state boundary.

This legislation will establish interstate contracts parameters for the financial responsibilities when a person's treatment is provided by a facility in a bordering state-- a North Dakotan receiving treatment in Minnesota or a Minnesotan receiving treatment in North Dakota by establishing an interstate contract system. Similar legislation is also being introduced in the Minnesota Legislature.

This bill will help to assure that persons needing counseling or treatment will be provide it in a more streamlined, timely fashion and that they will have greater access to treatment options.

Thank you Chairperson Lee and Senate Committee Members. There are several healthcare professionals who will also be able to address the need for this legislation and answer questions.

Again Thank you Chairperson Lee.