

Good evening Friends,

Below is the draft for a house of HB 1464 to a maternal health study per our discussion in the bill hearing. I am copying the folks I worked on the doula bill with so they can see the proposed study language and weigh in on additions and/or omissions. I feel strongly that a study of this magnitude be conducted by a researcher with content and research expertise, hence the price tag and requirement it be someone from one of ND's university departments of public health-hoping it would also buy the services of a graduate assistant for the study and experience. I am happy to discuss anything vague or questionable in the draft with you.

Gretch

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-MATERNAL CARE SERVICES STUDY-ONE-TIME FUNDING

During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider a study of prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care programs and services in North Dakota. The study must include what medical and non-medical prenatal and postnatal care services are available, what communities they are available in, their service areas, and utilization rates of currently existing services. The study will identify where delivery services are available for health care facility-based and home births, how many obstetricians are practicing and where, how many OB-GYN positions are open, and the location of the openings. There will be a review of prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services covered by public assistance and private insurance policies and a financial and program audit of pregnancy resource centers receiving state funding.

The study must include, but is not limited to, key informant interviews, focus groups, or consultation with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, North Dakota State University Department of Public Health, North Dakota Maternal Mortality Review Committee, a foundation in North Dakota building a statewide coalition to promote wellness and improve health outcomes (Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota), doulas and midwives currently practicing in North Dakota, home visiting programs, and the North Dakota Medical Association.

Outcomes of the study will include a maternal care desert map, a maternal care asset map, an inventory of gaps in services and evidence-based or innovative pilot project

solutions for resolving them, approaches for increasing utilization in pre- and post-natal care services and programs and any resources needed for improving access and utilization, recommendations for increasing the number of OB-GYNs practicing in North Dakota, recommendations for certification, training, and reimbursement for doula and midwife services, evidence based change recommendations to public assistance and private insurance policies for improved maternal and infant health outcomes, and the return on investment for state funding to pregnancy resource centers. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services, for the purpose of contracting for consulting services with a public health program in the North Dakota Higher Education System for the study for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided is considered a one-time funding item

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Committees:

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