

## **TESTIMONY OF SCOTT MILLER**

### **House Bill 1328 – Vitamin D Deficiency Screening and Coverage**

Good Morning, my name is Scott Miller. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System, or NDPERS. I am here to testify in a neutral position regarding House Bill 1328.

HB 1328 would allow pharmacists to screen and test for vitamin D deficiency and requires coverage of these services under the uniform group insurance program as deemed necessary by a pharmacist or health care provider. Note the bill does satisfy the statutory requirement that it first apply to the NDPERS health plan.

Vitamin D deficiency testing is currently covered in the NDPERS health plan if a physician determines that it is necessary. However, based on our consultant's research, there is little clinical evidence to support the need for routine screenings or vitamin D tests outside of a diagnostic evaluation by medical professionals for people that are deemed to be at risk for a vitamin D deficiency. Allowing pharmacists to determine medical necessity and provide testing could increase utilization of vitamin D tests and increase costs for the plan, although that would most likely not be significant. Finally, state pharmacy rules and regulations may restrict vitamin D testing at pharmacies and/or restrict pharmacists from determining medical necessity.

That concludes my testimony.