

March 10, 2021

House Human Services Committee

SB 2205 – Introduction

My name is David Clemens, Senator from District 16 in West Fargo and Fargo, and I am here to introduce Senate Bill 2205.

- SB 2205 is a simple bill that provides the following:
 - Medical assistance coverage, including Medicaid Expansion, must include payment for sign and oral language interpreter services for assistance in providing covered health care services to a recipient of medical assistance who has limited English proficiency or who has hearing loss and uses interpreting services. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.
- This is an issue of great concern to independent clinics. I was approached by a constituent to support this bill after her experiences in opening an ophthalmology clinic. She explained to me that when she sees a patient that needs an interpreter, she pays the interpreter more than what she is reimbursed for the entire medical visit, so it costs her to see the Medicaid patient.

The larger Medical Groups usually have their own access to interpreters, but it is the smaller providers who are in need of this service.

I would ask for your support of Senate Bill 2205.

Any questions.