



House Human Services Committee
SB 2334
March 17, 2021

Good morning Chairman Weisz and Committee Members. I am Courtney Koebele, the executive director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

The North Dakota Medical Association supports SB 2334 and urges a do pass from this committee.

Over the past two decades, as surgical techniques improved, surgery centers have moved toward increasingly complex procedures in patients that required longer recovery times. Many surgery centers now keep patients for nearly a full 24 hours after knee or hip replacements. The extended stay model provided for in this bill would allow for a greater percentage of those cases to be done at surgery centers. There is a continuing trend of shifting from inpatient to outpatient procedures, and the extended care center model allows for parallel care in a safe setting.

Extended stay centers could also cut costs for both public and private insurance plans and for patients. The cost of having a surgery done in a surgery center compared to a hospital is lower, resulting in lower co-pays and deductibles for patients, and lower costs for insurance companies.

NDMA respectfully requests a DO PASS on SB 2334. Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions.