

HCR 3022 Hospital Discharge Databases

Good Afternoon Chairman Weisz and Members of House Human Services Committee. For the record, my name is Representative Gretchen Dobervich and I serve the people of District 11 in Fargo. I come before you today with HCR 3022, a resolution for the study of a North Dakota Hospital Discharge Database.

Hospital Discharge Databases are data sets containing non-identifiable information related to hospitalizations and discharge. Currently, 48 of 50 states operate a statewide hospital discharge database. North Dakota is one of the two who do not have one. Currently, hospitals in North Dakota can elect to send discharge data to Minnesota and receive a data report back.

Hospitals, insurers, patients, primary care, public health, and policy makers can all benefit from this data. For example, a hospital discharge database provides hospitals with one stop information regarding service volume and data useful in prioritizing network agreements for discharge transfers to other care settings.

Hospital discharge databases offer insurers data identifying where services are occurring relative to volume and diagnosis and could help in setting rate pools. Availability of the data included in a hospital discharge database provides for a more augmented data driven decision making process that can provide support for legislative bills.

There are also opportunities to generate revenue in a small capacity through the databases being available for large scale studies, which another speaker will address.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony and I stand for questions.