

January 25, 2021

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:
  - Medical assistance coverage, including Medicaid Expansion, must include for 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.

I would ask for your support of Senate Bill 2205.

Any questions.