

Senate Human Services Committee

January 27, 2021

Testimony on HB 1407 (Tribal Health Coordinated Care Agreements)

Good afternoon Madam Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Scott Davis and I am an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and a decedent of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. I am the Executive Director of the ND Indian Affairs Commission.

Our position on HB 1407 is neutral, but we have been and will continue to be committed to making sure the Tribal Nations are working with the State of North Dakota and Non-Native Health Care Providers to improve the health care for Tribal people in ND.

This work was initially started back in 2016 after the 65th Legislative Session. There were meetings set up with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) initially since they have lands in North Dakota and South Dakota. There were numerous meetings with Standing Rock and a few with Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. These meetings talked about the referral process and how to ensure that the different health systems are communicating about the patients' care.

Prior to the 66th Legislative session, we had meetings with the Tribal leaders on a potential bill to address the savings from the coordinated care agreements. The Tribal leaders agreed to have the bill be written to have a 70/30 split of the savings with 70% going back to the Tribes and 30% to the state. HB 1194 was created with this percentage and through the legislative process the split of the savings was changed to 60% going to the Tribes and 40% to the State. This bill also created a separate fund.

Currently, there have been some changes to HB 1407, that we encourage you to consider as I am sure the Tribes may have more ideas on how to improve the Bill.

The Tribes of ND have some of the worst health care disparities in the region. We continue to find new ways to improve access to quality services, address major health care disparities and having a quality health care workforce. This effort would be a new tool for each Tribe to address the health care needs that are unique to each community. This project could increase the federal funding coming back to ND and help our current system to improve moving forward.
That concludes my testimony. I will stand for any questions.