



March 22, 2021

Good evening Senators,

My name is Christina Dahl and I am a Nurse Practitioner at Diabetes Care Clinic in Fargo, and I am a supporter of North Dakotans for Open Access Healthcare.

I urge your support for HB 1465 to give patients the right to choose their medical provider. As shown in the group's testimony and data, this is a win for patients while not burdening the health care system with significant costs.

This is not a fight about whether consolidated health care systems or independents are better for patients. Each gives many and differing benefits to patients. Instead, HB 1465 gives patients the ability to choose the right provider for each particular ailment. Their choice might depend on severity, attention and quality of care, trust, travel and proximity to home/family, specialty skills, year of experience, hours of operation, wait times and availability, and more.

These are serious considerations for a patient. However, the consolidation of health care prevents patients from truly choosing their care. Limited networks are very often chosen by employers and/or family members, not the patient. In our small state, consolidation threatens to push out specialty providers who wish to remain independent but cannot maintain adequate volumes as insurance networks tighten. Likewise, recruitment of such providers will also prove more difficult.

This bill would certainly be more questionable if it imposed significant cost and administrative burdens on insurers, but it does not. As the data shows, South Dakota saw no discernable cost impact from its patient choice law and, as most providers are already credentialed with each insurer for their other plans, insurers cannot expect a wave of new providers to credential.

This is a good bill for North Dakota patients. They deserve the ability to choose their own care. Please vote in support of HB 1465.

Sincerely,

Christina Dahl, NP-C, BC-ADM

Phone: 701.540.9822 Fax: 701.540.9824

e-mail: [info@dccfargo.com](mailto:info@dccfargo.com)

website: [www.dccfargo.com](http://www.dccfargo.com)

1665 43rd Street South

Suite 102

Fargo, ND 58103