

**Testimony**  
**House Bill 1323 - Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Political Subdivisions Committee**  
**Senator Burckhard, Chairman**

April 1, 2021

Chairman Burckhard, and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, I am Rosalie Etherington, Superintendent of the North Dakota State Hospital (NDSH) and Chief Clinics Officer of the Human Service Centers, of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here on behalf of the Department to provide testimony in opposition of House Bill 1323.

The Department, in fulfillment of its duties, owns or manages licensed and accredited behavioral health clinics, state hospital, and intermediate care facility. The Department is also responsible for substance use disorders treatment facility licensing and home healthcare provider certification

These healthcare services, as required for license and accreditation, must establish and maintain a systematic infection prevention and control program. Standardized infection prevention and control programs include the use of masks, gloves, and other personal protective equipment, in addition to hand-washing and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, to minimize the spread of infection from patients to healthcare personnel and from healthcare personnel to patients.

For these reasons the Department opposes House Bill 1323.

This concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.