

Good morning, Representative Weisz and Members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Tim Kennedy. I am the administrator of Parkside Lutheran Home in Lisbon ND. Parkside is a 44-bed facility comprised of 38 skilled beds and 6 basic care beds. While serving as the Administrator of the facility has been my occupation for the past 14 years I am here today to testify as a family member. My father-in-law is a life long resident of ND and will be 95 on March 21st.

Last April his wife had a fall and suffered a broken hip and he was no longer able to care for her or vice versa. She moved to live with her daughter. My Father-in-law moved from his apartment that he felt he could no longer afford in Fargo back to a make-shift apartment in a shop owned by my brother-in-law located in Mcleod. This shop is located 3 blocks (clear on the other side of "town") from where my wife and I live.

When my wife's dad and step-mother moved to Fargo most of his property in Mcleod was purchased by my brother-in-law. The property consisted of a trailer house and the property (approximately 2.5 acres) where it located as well as a 3.5-acre parcel that was the location of the Dakota Feeders Sales Barn located on the North side of Mcleod. My brother-in-law, for the past seven years failed to properly record the deeds or transfer titles of said properties. However, he has proof of payments made for the properties and can verify that the utilities have been in his name and paid for by him for the past 7+ years. My brother-in law and his sister(my wife) consulted with an attorney prior to completing the Medicaid eligibility application. The attorney assisted in and reviewed the documentation that proves there was a change of ownership and his opinion was that this should be adequate proof showing the properties were transferred appropriately and should not be a disqualifying transfer for Medicaid eligibility purposes.

The Medicaid application was submitted late last fall (prior to Thanksgiving), 45 days had passed and my wife, his Power of Attorney, reached out to the Fargo Medicaid office to inquire on the status of his application to see if there were any further documents they were in need of. Prior to receiving a call back from the regional long term care eligibility office, she received a call from the Ransom County Case Manager who completed an in-home verification visit the first week

of January to determine my father-in-law's appropriateness for basic care. Through this visit we were able to attain the name of the caseworker that was reviewing my father-in-law's application. A call was made and a message was left with the case worker inquiring if there was anything else needed. Several days later she received a call and she was informed they were requesting some new copies of bank statements that they could not read the entire date of the statements on. Additionally, the case worker stated that she had to send the prior mentioned documents off to be reviewed by the DHS attorney. In the meantime, we have had quite the snow storms this winter. For age 94 my father-in-law is in relatively good physical shape, but sometimes his judgement and thought process isn't. For example, I had to for 3 consecutive days in a row pull the bobcat skid steer loader from the ditch because he felt compelled to try to move snow from a driveway. Unless we take him food on a regular basis he doesn't eat appropriately as his cooking equipment is limited and his cooking skills are suspect at best.

You may be asking yourself why not just admit him to the facility with a pending Medicaid application knowing if eligible the state will pay up to 45 days prior to the application being submitted. This puts me in a very difficult situation with my position at the facility I certainly will not let his admission be viewed as some sort of favoritism, and should the case worker determine it is a disqualifying transfer then I would professionally need to pursue payment from a family member whom there is already a strained relationship.

With presumed eligibility for all citizens of North Dakota this would not be a concern or issue and he would be receiving the appropriate level of care in an appropriate setting.

I ask the committee to support the proposed amendment covering all citizens of North Dakota applying for Medicaid, and give a do pass recommendation of the revised bill 1396.