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Dear Human Services House Members ,

I am the Medical Director at Canopy Medical Clinic, an independent clinic located in Fargo. I am writing in support of HB 1416, and I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Allowing patients to choose their healthcare providers based on expertise, specialization and comfort level, is an extremely important aspect of an individual's sense of control over their healthcare needs. When patients have a choice of where they receive their healthcare services, they often feel more empowered with medical interventions that are recommended for them. Being the Medical Director of a specialty clinic, I see a large number of patients who end up paying out of pocket for their medical care, even though they have health insurance. Not being able to be in network with their insurance companies due to their insurance's exclusion policies negatively affects not only patients, but the independent medical clinics in North Dakota that choose to provide specialty care. Often independent clinics specialize in services that may be harder to access at larger healthcare facilities. This not only puts a strain on patients, but on medical business owners in our state. As a medical provider who sees the strain of healthcare costs on patients, I believe that insurance companies, state laws, and clinic policies should all work together to make sure individuals get the best care possible and have access to the medical providers of their choice.

For the reasons listed above, I again urge a **Do Pass** recommendation for this bill.

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