

Testimony
House Bill No. 1458
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
January 23, 2023

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Jim Fleming with the Child Support Section of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of House Bill 1458.

The bill would require that the child support guidelines “[i]nclude consideration of the obligor providing health insurance coverage for the child.” The current child support guidelines already provide a deduction from a parent’s income for “A portion of premium payments, made by the person whose income is being determined, for health insurance policies or health service contracts, including coverage for dental and vision care, intended to afford coverage for the child or children for whom support is being sought.” (North Dakota Administrative Code § 75-02-04.1-01(6)(d))

This deduction implements existing state law (see page 2 lines 4-5 of the Bill): “Include consideration of an obligated party's responsibility for health insurance coverage or other medical support under section 14-09-08.10.”

While it appears that the new language is redundant to current practice, the Bill would reconfirm in North Dakota Century Code the approach outlined in the child support guidelines and further encourage parents who owe child support to obtain health coverage for their children.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.