

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2086
House Human Services Committee
Representative Weisz, Chairman
March 7, 2023

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am James Knopik, Manager of Addiction and Prevention Program and Policy with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) Behavioral Health Division. I appear before you in support of Senate Bill No. 2086 which was introduced at the request of the Department.

Under North Dakota Century Code chapters 50-06 and 50-31 the Department's Behavioral Health Division is responsible for the licensing of addiction treatment programs and the certification of alcohol and drug early intervention programs for youth.

The proposed changes in this bill amend section 50-06-44 of the North Dakota Century Code regarding alcohol and drug education programs for early intervention providers. Currently, the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) class is required to be performed by certified DUI instructor at a licensed addiction treatment program. This requires education programs to complete a similar licensing and licensing audit process as an addiction treatment program. By enacting these proposed changes, Driving Under the Influence instructors would complete only the process of becoming a certified instructor. The department would have the ability to simplify the process, reduce the regulatory burden, and potentially increase the number of DUI instructors.

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