



Testimony in Support of HB 2181

House Human Services Committee

Chairman Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the American Heart Association in support of House Bill 2181. AHA is a nonpartisan, not for profit organization with more than 800 North Dakotan AHA volunteers who advocate for longer and healthier lives. AHA's mission is to reduce death and disability from heart disease and stroke.

Maternal health is a priority for the AHA, and we are incredibly supportive of extending postpartum Medicaid coverage. Research shows the months following birth is critically important to addressing health issues discovered during pregnancy, or resulting from pregnancy, and will allow:

- Lower income pregnant women to obtain comprehensive care coverage so they can get all the health care services they need to be healthy during and following pregnancy.
- Better birth outcomes due to fewer costly medical complications during pregnancy.
- Lower risk of health problems for the baby during infancy and long-term benefits throughout growth and development.
- A higher rate of women more likely to seek well-child visits and immunizations for their children.
- Fewer children at risk for out-of-home placement.
- Assistance with early identification and treatment of postpartum depression, quitting smoking, preventing violence, and treating substance use disorders.

We are happy that the Department of Health and Human Services for extending postpartum through the administrative process using ARPA funding. With this successful rollout, and making this change a standard policy we fully support HB 2181 and would encourage a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you.