

House Human Services Committee

March 8, 2023

SB 2265

Senator Kathy Hogan

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan, and I represent District 21.

SB2265 allows for the creation of a managed care plan for North Dakotans dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Currently, dually eligible beneficiaries have limited care management options that result in confusion and misunderstanding for some disabled and/or elderly recipients. We know navigating two government programs can be a challenge. This bill gives DHHS the necessary support needed to develop and facilitate a dual managed care contract, also known as a Dual Special Needs Program or DSNP.

DSNPs are a type of Medicare Advantage plan designed to meet the specific needs of dually eligible beneficiaries. Originally authorized as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, DSNPs began operating in 2006. As of February 2022, DSNPs were operating in 45 states with over 4 million people enrolled in these programs.

The goal of the program is to integrate and align services in ways that assure person-centered care is delivered, improving member health outcomes and overall quality of life. DSNP plans offer many additional benefits Medicare and Medicaid do not offer such as prescription drug benefits, coverage for over-the-

counter health items, and a care management team to support the beneficiary, providing things such as in-home support when needed.

Attached are additional resources on DSNP plans. During the committee hearing, we heard from many families and providers about the problems with coordination of benefits and supporting of this model.

Thank you, Chairman Weisz; I am more than willing to attempt to answer any questions you may have.