



Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2265
Senate Human Services Committee
January 23, 2023

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

Please accept this written testimony in support of Bill No. 2265, intended to create a Dual Special Needs Plan, (D-SNP).

For 17 years, I provided medical directorship for 3 dual special needs plans. The effects were apparent in the second year of operations:

1. Increased percentage of patients living in the community instead of long-term care facilities
2. Improved outcomes, including quality measures, falls, fractures, and advanced care directive completion
3. Fewer Emergency Room visits due to preventable conditions.
4. Improved safety and stewardship of pharmacy prescribing practices.
5. Decreased expenditures compared to budget.

There are several crucial elements in a D-SNP program that are required for success:

1. Provision of delegated care management, with annual audit for compliance and outcomes
2. Support of clinical care models that best serve the dual-eligible population
3. A high value provider network, with annual assessment of performance and payment
4. Improved access and advocacy to membership and their caregivers. This includes a health plan with special membership outreach and services.

It is ironic that the most dispossessed of our community, ie the low-income elderly, often are the highest cost utilizers of health care for the state. The burden of marginalization and illness is heavy. However, there is opportunity here. The promise for North Dakota is that a proactive approach that combines advocacy, stewardship, and best clinical practices, can yield positive results.

Sincerely,
Michael S. Van Scoy, MD, FACP
Chief Medical Officer, Arkos Health ND