

Chairman Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

SB 2276 establishes an option under the 1915(c) Medicaid Waivers (home and community-based services) that would reimburse family caregivers who provide “extraordinary care” to their dependents who are on these waivers.

Overview: Currently, there are individuals who are eligible for in-home services through North Dakota’s Medicaid program that don’t receive these services, often due to a lack of qualified workforce available to provide the services. This often means that a parent or other relative must try to take care of them, sacrificing income they would otherwise be earning at work to stay at home. This bill would allow for that caregiver to be reimbursed when the care they provide is beyond what is ordinarily required by a parent or legal guardian.

History: The Aging and Disabled Waiver for home and community-based services currently allows caregivers living in the home to be reimbursed for care — this bill would provide equal treatment under the other waivers, including the Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Medically Fragile waivers.

The goals of this bill are to:

- 1 – Address the lack of workforce that surrounds these home-based services
- 2 – Provide financial stability to households that are strained by juggling work and caregiving
- 3 – Provide the care that these individuals are legally eligible for but not actually receiving
- 4 – Keep families together and prevent expensive and unnecessary referral to institutions

I am grateful for your consideration and deliberation on this important legislation. If you have any questions, please do hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sean Cleary
North Dakota State Senate
District 35 — Bismarck