

SCR 4011 presentation February 15, 2023

Senator Judy Lee

PACE, which is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, is a program to provide comprehensive medical care and long-term services and supports to adults, largely dually eligible, which means that they qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid, aged 55+ who meet their state's nursing home eligibility criteria.

The main goal of the PACE program is to help people who qualify for nursing home level of care to remain in their homes and community and enhance their quality of life.

It is a federally and state funded program that provides all health care needs to frail and elderly individuals in the community. The state contracts with PACE providers who coordinate patient-centered health care for each PACE participant, and they can end enrollment at any time.

At the time of enrollment, PACE may be an alternative to basic care, assisted living or nursing home placement, but once a person is enrolled in PACE, if they need hospital, nursing home, assisted living or basic care placement, they do not have to disenroll from PACE to receive those services. It is designed to be a lifelong program.

PACE is already present in North Dakota, but the income eligibility is so low that expansion is not financially sustainable, even though this can be a cost-saving measure as well as providing home and community-based services, rather than nursing homes.

A study will more fully evaluate the program and whether or not increasing the eligibility limits would be an appropriate humanitarian as well as financial decision, especially considering the need for our state to increase its home and community based services.

The Human Services committee supported SCR 4011 and we ask the Senate to concur.