

Support for SB 2012 and IMD Waiver Omission

Dave Marion- Prairie Recovery Center

1-26-2023

Chairman Dever and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dave Marion and work for the Prairie Recovery Center located southwest of Mandan near Raleigh ND. The Prairie Recovery Center serves men and women throughout ND that suffer with addiction and dual diagnosis mental health conditions in a short-term residential setting in rural ND. The Prairie Recovery Center, as a committed ND resource, has made it its mission to answer the call of the severe crisis that ND is facing with its growing needs in substance use disorders and mental health. First, we want to offer up support for the majority of SB 2012. Resources like the continuation of Medicaid Expansion and potential inflationary increases are a critical tool to a functioning Behavioral Health system. I wanted to bring to your attention the omission of an IMD Waiver for SUD and Mental Health in the executive and DHS – Medical Services budget. Behavioral Health might be the number one public health talking point in America. Incidence rates are up, acuity is up, and drug overdoses are up. The omission of an IMD Waiver is not only bad fiscal policy but will cost even more in human life. As providers, we are working diligently on HB 1261 to push for an IMD Waiver on the house side. However, we respectfully request that if the need arises the Senate Appropriations – Human Resources Division consider amending SB 2012 to ensure the passage of an IMD Waiver. In-patient behavioral health is delivered in the community in short-term, acute care settings, this is apparent for persons with mental health and substance use disorders. It would not be in the best interest of the people that need the lifesaving services to limit services or resources when the state can take positive steps to address the needs clearly outlined by the Dept of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division and Shulte Report. Taking the steps for this change that has been talked about or many years is in the best interests of people and families, which serves as the cornerstone to our ND communities. You have providers that want to do the work, so let them roll up their sleeves and do the work. Thank you for your time and consideration and if you have a question please do not hesitate to ask.

Dave Marion