



# North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Senator Sean Cleary

District 35  
1210 Meredith Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58501-2671  
[scleary@ndlegis.gov](mailto:scleary@ndlegis.gov)

**COMMITTEES:**  
Human Services  
State and Local Government

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Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations 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

**Fiscal Note** – Based on feedback from advocates and the Department of Health and Human Services, as the committee reviews the fiscal note, I would encourage the consideration of the following questions on the fiscal impact of this legislation:

- 1- *Is this the appropriate number of FTE’s to administer this service?*
- 2- *Considering the amount of underutilization on other waivers, is this the appropriate level of estimated utilization?*
- 3- *How does the funding in this legislation interact with the funds to be appropriated under SB 2012?*

I am grateful for your consideration and deliberation on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Senator Sean Cleary  
District 35, Bismarck