

Testimony
Senate Bill No.2166
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 17, 2023

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Pam Sagness, Executive Director of the Behavioral Health Division with the Department of Health and Human Services' (Department), Behavioral Health Division. I appear before you to provide neutral testimony for Senate Bill No. 2166.

In order to avoid duplication in administration of funding for behavioral health services and supports, the Department would recommend the funds are appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services' Behavioral Health Division to administer grants rather than the Department of Commerce (see line 7).

The Department recommends the language on lines 7 and 8, "providing a grant to an organization" be revised to "providing grants to organizations", to support multiple grants.

The Department also requests there be additional clarity provided regarding the purpose of the funding and clarity that the grant funding cannot be used for existing services or services in which there is another funding source available.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.