

Testimony in support of SB 2276

Relating to legally responsible individuals providing Medicaid waiver services.

Senate Human Services January 24, 2023 9:00 AM Fort Lincoln Room

My name is Stephen McDonough. I am a board certified pediatrician who worked in North Dakota for forty years, from 1980 to 2020. I worked at the NDDoH from 1985 to 2000 and for several years was the medical director at what became the Children's Special Health Services at the ND Department of Human Services. I served on the Secretary's Advisory Committee for Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children at the federal level to the US Department of Health and Human Services from 2011 to 2017.

I was a general pediatrician with a long standing interest in children with chronic disease. Families of children with special health needs experience multiple stresses and among those are: the diagnosis, disability and prognosis for their child's condition; the medical journey that was taken to make the diagnosis; getting their child to appointments with medical providers, therapists and school personnel and paying for the many treatments and interventions not covered by health insurance or the school system.

I tried my best to get as many support services for the children in my practice as possible. For over a decade, I made more referrals to early childhood development than all of physicians in the Bismarck/Mandan area combined.

Access to daycare is especially problematic in our state in both urban but especially rural areas for children with special health care needs. Parents of children with special health care needs find it more difficult to be employed.

Passage of SB 2276 will help alleviate some of the financial stresses that these families experience and I urge you to support this bill.

Stephen McDonough MD