



ELMWOOD FAMILY
DENTISTRY

Dr. Bryan Seeley, D.D.S.
1213 Prairie Parkway
West Fargo ND 58078
(701) 282-5250

Dear Chairman Warrey, Vice-Chairmen Ostlie and Johnson, and Members of the House IBL Committee,

My name is Dr. Bryan Seeley, and I have been practicing dentistry in North Dakota for 21 years. It has been my privilege to contribute to my community and fellow North Dakotans in this capacity and watch how dentistry has evolved over the years to better serve our patients. I am writing in strong support of SB2280 because we are at a pivotal time in our industry where insurance reform is absolutely necessary for our patients.

While advancements in technology have certainly made many procedures and treatments more comfortable and efficient for our patients, we have seen a steady increase in insurance companies interfering with treatment plans. Outside of very basic procedures, prior authorization is being required for most treatment. This delays care for the patient and renders the provider helpless to provide quick relief. North Dakota dentists have also been experiencing issues with prior authorization being approved, but after the procedure has been completed, a reversal in the decision to pay on the claim – leaving thousands of dollars of unexpected costs on the patient.

These issues have resulted in many North Dakota practices terminating their contracts as participating providers for any insurance plans. The burden to file insurance then lands on the patients themselves, who must navigate a system of which they generally have no expertise.

Transparency is important for establishing trust. We are upfront with our fee schedules for each procedure or treatment at our practice and complete a financial consultation with each patient in our office. Similarly, SB2280 would guarantee the transparency of the claims filed with the insurance company, the number of approvals and denials, and the reason for the denials – all important data to determine that North Dakotans are getting fair coverage for their premiums.

SB2280 would help alleviate delays and interruptions in patient care for North Dakotans. With an enforced timeline for prior authorization, we can schedule patients for their follow-up care at the time of their initial appointment, instead of waiting for a longer period of time, then trying to find time in the schedule for them weeks down the road. This would drastically help with continuity of care.

Perhaps even more importantly, SB2280 would ensure a licensed dentist, educated in the field with ongoing continuing education to stay abreast of new dental development and treatment options would be making informed decisions on prior authorization. A provider who has experience with patients, materials and treatment modalities is far more adept to make decisions with the best interest of the patient at the forefront.

I appreciate your time and your consideration of my testimony in favor of SB2280. I respectfully ask for your support in passing SB2280 for a healthier North Dakota.

Dr. Bryan Seeley