

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee -

Good Morning - my name is Dylan Wheeler, Head of Government Affairs with Sanford Health Plan. Today, speaking in opposition to HB1114. My comments are similar to that of SB2370, which was before this committee a few short weeks ago.

As we shared during the hearing on SB2370 and the initial House hearing on HB1114, Sanford Health Plan supports affordable prescription drugs for our patients and members; we share the goal of the proponents in broadening access to insulin and the related supplies. However, mandating price caps on medications does not address the underlying issue - rising prescription drug prices. The market has seen significant shifts in recent years when manufacturers started to reduce prices on insulin in response to political and market forces; that experience was shown, too during the NDPERS pilot period. Sanford Health Plan also recognizes that through the recent revisions of the North Dakota Essential Health Benefits plan, insulin prices are now capped in those markets and this bill would capture the remaining state-regulated markets.

Again, we will specifically highlight line 21 on page 1 – related to pre-mixed insulin and GLP-1 RA products. Post passage and during implementation, there were questions raised as to whether stand-alone GLP-1 medications (weight loss medications) were subject to the \$25 monthly cap. Traditional or stand-alone GLP-1 medications are not within the purview of this bill.

Similar to what was done on SB2370, we would request an amendment on HB1114 that limits the scope of this legislation to NDPERS. Private market coverage and caps are available on the ACA markets and carriers are complying with the EHB requirements. In the alternative, we would request a Do Not Pass recommendation from committee.

To conclude, again we support affordable prescription drugs and access for our members and patients; however, question the policy approach of capping prices for certain medications.

I appreciate the committee's time and please let me know if you have any questions.

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