

Testimony on Amending Geropsychiatric Facilities
Senate Human Services Committee
January 8, 2025
Senate Bill 2081

Chair Judy Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Nikki Wegner, President of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association. Our association represents North Dakota's three geropsychiatric skilled nursing facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2081, with the proposed amendments. This amendment updates Section 50-24.4-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, modernizing outdated language to reflect current practices. It clarifies that individuals do not need to be admitted to the State Hospital before being considered for a geropsychiatric facility, while maintaining the practice of prioritizing State Hospital referrals when openings are available. The amendment also refines the admission process, ensuring individuals require both skilled nursing and psychiatric services. These updates support geropsychiatric facilities in better serving those most in need while fulfilling their specialized role.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.

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