



**Senate Industry and Business Committee
SB 2171 Testimony
January 20, 2025
Senator Judy Lee, Chair**

Good morning, Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee. I am Carlotta McCleary, Executive Director of Mental Health America of North Dakota and Executive Director of the North Dakota Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Today I speak on behalf of the Mental Health Advocacy Network (MHAN). MHAN advocates for a consumer/family driven mental health system of care that provides an array of service choices that are timely, responsive and effective. Our vision is for every North Dakotan to have access to the right service—whether it be preventative, treatment, or recovery; at the right time—when the service is needed; and at the right place—as near his or her home as possible. MHAN is testifying in opposition to SB 2171. MHAN is concerned about increasing the time at which an individual admitted would receive an evaluation to determine if they meet emergency commitment standards. An individual's civil liberties should weigh more heavily compared to the convenience of staff. MHAN is therefore against any increase in time for an individual to be evaluated for emergency commitment.

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