



Senate Human Services Committee
SB 2249
January 29, 2025

Good morning, Chair Lee and Committee Members. I am Courtney Koebele and I serve as executive director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA supports SB 2249. This bill puts an exception in place when step therapy would be detrimental to patient care.

Step Therapy necessitates the "fail first" drug therapy requirements, in which patients are forced by insurers to try, and fail, with one or more medications before the cost of the medication originally prescribed will be covered. This process ultimately wastes critical time in treatment, which some patients simply cannot afford to lose.

SB 2249 remove unnecessary barriers and allow patients to gain access to the medication they need at a faster pace. These important provisions would expedite the treatment process for patients who cannot afford to lose valuable time to adhere to insurance policies' procedures and would allow physicians, who are most in-tune with the patients' specific needs, to make the ultimate and best decision on the best possible course of medical treatment.

NDMA urges a do pass on SB 2249. Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.