North Dakota Senate

Senator Tim Mathern
District 11
433 16th Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58103-4329
tmathern@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations
Appropriations - Human Resources Division

January 27, 2025

Senate Human Services Committee

Madame Chairman Lee and Committee Members,

My name is Tim Mathern, Senator from District 11 in Fargo. I am the prime sponsor of SB 2316 which I introduced at the request of citizens in North Dakota. The intent of the bill is that we provide and pay for individuals who need nursing home level ventilator care or nursing home level psychiatric care in the state. The draft is somewhat unclear probably needing some amending to meet the purpose which I will focus on.

I introduced this measure for three main reasons.
1. My conversations suggest that some nursing homes are not able or not willing to care for some persons in their home community.
2. I believe some individuals with health needs are left at institutions like the state hospital, private hospitals, or referred out of state even though loved by people in their home community not able to serve them.
3. I believe your committee, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, and our private nursing home providers could arrive at a manner to keep our citizens within a reasonable distance of their home community.

I understand your committee is also working on creative ways for individuals with complex health care needs to receive care in their home. I support those programs as a primary response leaving this bill as only a secondary solution. I also understand there are workforce issues but these can be addressed by higher reimbursement. The market works, I know a solution will cost money. Through the Appropriates Committee I will do all I can to get you the money for the positive outcome you design.

Others are here to testify. I ask you for a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2316.
Thank you for your service to our state.

Tim Mathern