

2013 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2354

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2354

2/4/13

Recording Job Number: 18216

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature:



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the state department of health for a loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics.

Minutes:

Attached testimony

Vice Chairman Larsen opens hearing on SB 2354.

Senator J. Lee introduces the bill to the committee in place of Senator Poolman who is the prime sponsor.

(0:01:13) Sharon Ericson, CEO of Valley Community Health Centers, provides and reads testimony from two dentists: **Jackie Nord**, full-time dentist with Valley Community Health Centers in Grand Forks (see attachment #1) and **Grant Korsmo**, dental director at Valley Community Health Centers Dental Clinic in Grand Forks (see attachment #2). Ms. Ericson then reads her own testimony (see attachment #3).

(0:05:04) Senator Dever asks how much more they make in private practice.

Ms. Ericson states that it is a \$40-50,000 a year difference.

Senator Dever asks how the \$180,000 will be distributed.

Ms. Ericson states that there are 3 community health centers and 4 dental clinics in ND that provide services without regard to ability to pay. They don't qualify for any of the other loan repayment that is offered in this state. This would be an addition to make sure they can recruit and retain dentists in these dental practices.

(0:06:55) Gary Garland, who administers the dental loan repayment program within the Department of Health, gives a brief background for better understanding.

(0:09:22 - 0:12:00) Discussion between Chairman Lee and Mr. Garland in reference to a change to the loan repayment program from last legislative session.

Senator Anderson asks Mr. Garland to explain why the money wasn't in the budget.

Mr. Garland explains that it was in the budget but it was taken out. It is his belief that OMB was getting multiple requests for different types of programs that needed additional money and they did not include this in the Health Departments budget.

(0:12:55) **Marcia Olsen**, Executive Director of Bridging the Dental Gap, testifies in support of the bill. See attached testimony #4.

(0:15:33) **Chairman Lee** clarifies that this was funded the last biennium.

Ms. Olsen states that it was only funded in 2009, not in 2011 and explains that this didn't get carried through Appropriations.

(0:16:22) **Joe Cichy**, ND Dental Association, supports this bill. He did not provide any written testimony but clarifies that this was in the Health Department's budget as an optional request that wasn't selected so it wasn't included in the governor's budget. He also explains that the Safety Net Clinic is a 3 year commitment that is paid over 2 years where the rural loan repayment is \$2,000 a year for 4 years with a 4 year commitment.

(0:18:09) **Patricia Patron**, CEO of Family HealthCare in Fargo, supports bill (see attached testimony #5). She also provides testimony from **Dr. Andrea Wilson** who works at the Family HealthCare clinic (see attached testimony #6).

(0:22:21) **Chairman Lee** asks Ms. Patron to explain how they serve some patients on the ND side and some on MN side.

Ms. Patron explains that they have a dental side in Moorehead and a medical/dental side in Fargo. The services provided are the exact same. The patient population in MN is different with a larger number of individuals that are covered by public programs. Their clinics concentrate on serving those who are most vulnerable. Valley Community Health Center has also opened a dental clinic in Grand Forks. They have the physical space but just need the human talent to be able to serve those who need it the most.

(0:25:24) **Patrick Butler**, CEO of Northland Community Health Center, testifies in support of bill. See attached testimony #7.

(0:27:53) **Chairman Lee** asks if he has found that the other facet of the dental loan repayment program, where the focus is on rural areas, has any benefit in his recruitment.

Mr. Butler states that it would be very beneficial and explains why.

(0:29:04) **Kathleen Mangskau**, representing the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Bismarck, testifies in support of the bill. See attached testimony #8.

(0:30:35) **Ms. Mangskau** briefly discusses the tribal visitation that the care mobile has done as well as the new one they are planning, per the request of chairman Lee.

Senate Human Services Committee
SB 2354
2/4/13
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No further questions from committee or testimony.

The hearing on SB 2354 is closed.

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2354

2/5/13

Recording Job Number: 18317

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature:



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the state department of health for a loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics.

Minutes:

Committee discussion on SB 2354:

Chairman Lee briefly reviews the bill with the committee and references an email from Kathy Kaiser.

Senator Dever moves a Do Pass.

Senator Larsen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0, motion passes.

Senator Axness is the carrier.

Date: 2/5/13
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Dever Seconded By Sen. Larsen

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chariman Judy Lee	✓		Senator Tyler Axness	✓	
Vice Chairman Oley Larsen	✓				
Senator Dick Dever	✓				
Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Axness

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2354: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2354 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2013 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2354

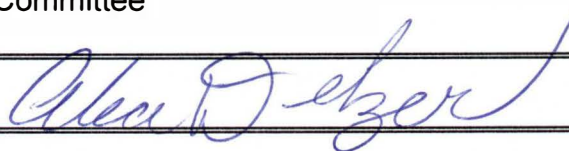
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
02-14-2013
Job # 18968

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Health Department loan repayment program

Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on Thursday, February 14, 2013 in regards to SB 2354 at 10:45 am. All committee members were present. Adam Mathiak and Sheila Peterson were present.

Senator Judy Lee, District 13, introduced 2354. It talks about a repayment program for loans for dentists who are serving in public health and nonpublic dental clinics. There are two funding components. The first part provides repayment for those who are practicing in rural areas. The second part is about loan repayment for those who are practicing in public health not for profit clinics, for example the Care Mobile that goes around. For the most part these are sole practitioners or may have a partner or two. They have to buy or establish a practice and there is a significant investment just in getting set up. It's not unusual to also have student debt. If they are taking a job in one of these not for profit clinics, they don't have the same ability to repay this debt as one in private practice. The 2nd part was only funded last biennium. I believe this was an oversight. Each of these needed separate funding. That is what this bill does for the nonprofits or public health units.

Senator Warner is there a minimum amount of time from their work week they have to dedicate to this practice?

Sen. J. Lee responded that she didn't know.

Marsha Olson, Executive Director for Bridging the Dental Gap, answered the question. She explained that they have to serve a 3 year term with the nonprofit clinic. The payback is over a two year period. If they do not fulfill their 3 year term then there is a refund requirement that they have to pay back. She emphasized that it is a full time commitment for 3 years.

Senator Carlisle how come this is a separate bill and not in the health dept. or some other budget?

Ms. Olson said that this particular portion was one of the options on the budget and didn't make it into the full budget.

The hearing was closed on SB 2354.

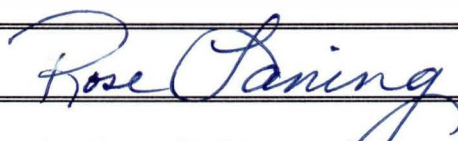
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2354 subcommittee
February 21, 2013
Job # 19300

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

An appropriation to the state department of health for a loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics.

Minutes:

Testimony # 1-3

Legislative Council - Becky J. Keller
OMB - Joe Morrissette

Senator Kilzer opened the hearing on SB 2354. Senators Grindberg and Robinson were also present. (Senator Robinson is filling in for Senator Mathern)

Marcia Olson - Lobbyist # 463

Representing the non-profit groups asking for the bill. The intent of the bill is to pay for dentists to go to non-profit clinics. She said it is Dental Loan to Payment program that is already in statute. She explains this program and the three parts of the bill.

Senator Kilzer - Asks what that is per biennium.

Brenda Weisz, Director of Accounting, ND Depart. of Health - Replies it is \$520,000 for the dental in rural.

Marcia Olson - Says that pertains to \$180 that is usually applied to new participants and the other amount is for the currently existing.

Senator Kilzer - Asks if the focus is the 2nd part.

Marcia Olson - Replies yes and it is the part that is unfunded. It was funded one time in 2009, but not in 2011. She said they would like to see it put back in. She added they cannot compete in paying dentists what they can make in the open market. She says this is one way they can become more competitive and attract dentists to their practice.

Senator Kilzer - Asks if they have other sources of money.

Marcia Olson: Replies they do; income from sliding fees or Medicaid. They also do grant writing.

Senator Robinson - Asks if their patients are on the increase.

Marcia Olson - She gives figures for what their clinics did, they did 6700 appt. and in addition they had outreach programs in nursing homes and saw 600 appointments.

Larry Shireley - Community Health Care of the Dakota (CHAD) - He says in 2011 they had 19,773 visits, 900 were patients. If they can't pay they receive free services.

Senator Grindberg - Asks if there still is a program that buys down student loans for dentists that work in the state?

Joe Morrissette, OMB - There is a loan repayment program for rural dentists in the budget for \$520,000.

Committee discusses how the loan repayment program works for rural dentists. The dentists commit to 3 years. The challenge would be to get dentists at a competitive wage. The enticement would be the buy down but many would like to get started on their practice. This bill asks for 3 dentists and would be over seen by the Health Council. Committee speaks of the many reasons why someone may like to do this as a public service. Ms. Olson describes how her practice runs and the amount of patients they see and how many are on Medicaid.

Larry Shireley - turned in letters from 3 of the dentists Grant Korsmo, Jackie Nord and Dr. Andrea Wilson

Testimony attached # 1 - Grant Korsmo

Testimony attached # 2 - Jackie Nord

Testimony attached # 3 - Dr. Andrea Wilson

Senator Grindberg moved \$180,000

Senator Robinson seconded

Senator Kilzer will recommend to committee a Do Pass.

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
02-21-2013
No Audio

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL re: Loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics. (Do Pass)

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on Thursday, February 21, 2013. All committee members were present except Senator Mathern.

Becky J. Keller-Legislative Council
Sheila Peterson -OMB

Chairman Holmberg asked Senator Kilzer to explain what this bill does.

Senator Kilzer: This bill has to do with the dental mobile units in the state. It's a request for funds in the amount of \$180,000.00 for the upcoming biennium. There is no appropriation in the present biennium and there has been in previous bienniums. There are two different programs and it is also a loan repayment program. This bill here is for paying back the loans for 3 dentists who have committed for 3 years, and they work 100% of their time practicing in a public health setting or nonprofit dental clinic in Grand Forks, Fargo, Turtle Lake and Bismarck and the Ronald McDonald Dental Bus. Marsha Olson, Executive Director for Bridging the Dental Gap, gave us information that they treat thousands of patients. They do receive money from grants and medicare, and in our subcommittee hearing we voted 3 to 0 for a Do Pass.

Senator Kilzer moved a Do Pass on SB 2354. 2nd by Senator Krebsbach.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 12; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

Chairman Holmberg: This will go back to Human Services. **Senator Axness will carry the bill.**

The hearing was closed on SB 2354.

Date: 2-21-13

Roll Call Vote # 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Kilzer Seconded By Krebsbach

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Ray Holmberg	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	A	
Co-Vice Chairman Bill Bowman	✓		Senator David O'Connell	✓	
Co-Vice Chair Tony Grindberg	✓		Senator Larry Robinson	✓	
Senator Ralph Kilzer	✓		Senator John Warner	✓	
Senator Karen Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Robert Erbele	✓				
Senator Terry Wanzek	✓				
Senator Ron Carlisle	✓				
Senator Gary Lee	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Human Services - (Appropriations)

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2354: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2354 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2013 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2354

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Human Services Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
March 12, 2013
Job 19774

Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the State Health Dept. for a loan repayment program.

Minutes:

Testimony 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

Vice Chair Hofstad: Opened the hearing on SB 2354.

Sen. Poolman: Introduced and supported the bill. 1:18

Marsha Olson: From Bridging the Dental Gap testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #1) 6:38

Vice-Chair Hofstad: What is the mix of Medicaid and private pay again?

Olson: 44% Medicaid and 56% sliding fee, which is for Bridging the Dental Gap.

Rep. Fehr: Are you currently involved with the Federal health loan repayment program?

Olson: Bridging the Dental Gap does not qualify at this time.

Rep. Fehr: Could you explain?

Olson: It has to do with underserved areas and man power shortage areas; Bismarck is not a man power shortage area which disqualifies us.

Rep. Laning: On the loan repayments, how many years before it is repaid?

Olson: It is paid out over two years and each dentist gets \$60,000 towards their loan. They need to stay with us for three years.

Rep. Mooney: Did we fund this the last session?

Olson: No.

Patricia Patron: CEO of Family Health Care in Fargo testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #2) 16:00

Rep. Fehr: Are you eligible for the Federal loan repayment program?

Patron: Yes.

Rep. Fehr: If you have applicants, do they get into both loan payment programs?

Patron: It not common.

Rep. Silbernagel: Do you know how many dentists are currently practicing in nonprofit and public health clinics in the state of ND?

Patron: I don't know the overall number; my clinic has five dentists, 2 full time dentists.

Sharon Ericson: 19:10 CEO of Valley Community Health Centers testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #3). (Handed out and read testimony of Jackie Nord, dentist with Valley Community Health Centers, see Testimony #4 and Grant Korsmo dental director at Valley Community Health Centers, see Testimony #5.) 25:40

Larry Shireloy: 26:55 Speaking on behalf of Patrick Butler (See Testimony #6).

Kathy Keiser: 28:10 Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities in Bismarck testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #7).

Chairman Weisz: What would be the requirements of the dentist to be eligible?

Gary Garland, Dept of Health: \$60,000 is for a three year service commitment, but it is said it will be paid one half in first year and second half the second year. If they leave before the 3 year contract they would subject to same requirements for general law for loan repayment. That is basically to repay what they have received.

Chairman Weisz: Would they fall under that?

Garland: Yes. 34:00

Chairman Weisz: The bill doesn't even address this, it is only an appropriation. It is not addressing current Century Code that states the rules that apply.

Garland: 35:00 Addresses which code that he believes it would fall under.

Rep. Porter: When was the last time the funds were appropriated?

Garland: In 2009.


Vice Chair Hofstad: Closed hearing.

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
March 26, 2013
Job 20520

Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Expanding the Dental loan repayment program on to nonprofits for SB 2354.

00:21 Representative Porter: As we look at areas that are difficult to access inside of our Medicaid program it's by far well known in the area of dental health. When you don't have good access to that kind of care those individuals end up in emergency rooms. This is a very good investment of our money. **I move a Do Pass with a re-referral to Appropriations.** Seconded by Representative Mooney.

A Do Pass Roll call vote and to be Re-referred to Appropriations of SB 2354: Yes = 12, No = 0, Absent = 1. Carrier: Representative Hofstad

Date: 3-26-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Mooney

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN WEISZ	✓	✓	REP. MOONEY	✓	✓
VICE-CHAIRMAN HOFSTAD	✓	✓	REP. MUSCHA	✓	✓
REP. ANDERSON	✓	✓	REP. OVERSEN	✓	
REP. DAMSCHEN	✓	✓			
REP. FEHR	✓	✓			
REP. KIEFERT	✓	✓			
REP. LANING	✓	✓			
REP. LOOYSEN	✓	✓			
REP. PORTER	✓	✓			
REP. SILBERNAGEL	✓	✓			

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Hofstad

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2354: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2354 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2013 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

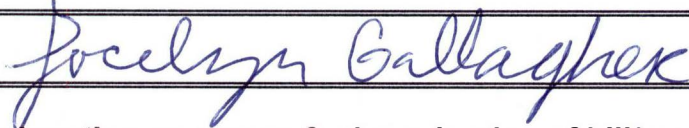
SB 2354

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
4/2/13
Job 20778

Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state department of health for a loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics.

Minutes:

Rep. Robin Weisz, District 14: Introduced the bill.

Chairman Delzer: Are the three slots we currently have all independent or practicing in public health?

Rep. Weisz: I think we had one once that did practice in a non-profit clinic, none currently.

Chairman Delzer: Did you ask how many have stayed for all the years required?

Rep. Weisz: My understanding is none have left prior to the three years.

Rep. Pollert: I think we have that schedule on the dentists (in HR division).

Rep. Weisz: This is three additional slots, but they have to practice in the CareMobile. It's \$60,000 up front, and they have to practice for three years or pay it back. It's in the rules in the health department.

Chairman Delzer: What happens if they leave and refuse to pay?

Rep. Weisz: I think that has happened once in the physicians program. They try to collect.

Chairman Delzer: Was this an OAR in the health department?

Rep. Bellew: It was. They funded half the original request. \$180,000 is to put funds in for existing dentists, this additional would be for the ones working in public health set-ups. It was request #10, and it was partially funded.

Rep. Weisz: We have trouble getting providers for these services.

Chairman Delzer: Did you ask for a list of the non-profits that have unfilled positions?

Rep. Weisz: I didn't ask for a list of the non-profits but each of them who testified are constantly short of dentist.

Chairman Delzer: Why did we not look at funding this one instead of the other?

Rep. Weisz: We struggle getting dentists in the rural areas, too.

Chairman Delzer: Is there any limit to where these could go or could Fargo take all three of them in public health?

Rep. Weisz: In theory, they could all go to Fargo, the only restriction is being a non-profit.

05:55

Rep. Pollert: Didn't we do some of this non-profit in Bismarck a few biennia ago?

Chairman Delzer: We did the mobile dental unit. I don't remember doing a non-profit specific dental one. Further questions for Rep. Weisz?

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
April 5, 2013
Job # 20942

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Delzer: Opened the meeting on SB 2354. This is the bill out of the health policy committee. It does \$180,000 for dentists and public health and non-public dental clinics. We currently do \$180,000 on different areas. We were hoping for some information and I don't know how much longer we can wait. What are the committee's thoughts? These dentists would have to be newly hired from a non-public dental or health clinics. It is to try and get more dentists in the clinics. I know Turtle Lake is the closest federally funded public health clinic and that one has a dentist in it. This would obviously be a two year funding source. I think it pays \$60,000 up front. It says they are supposed to stay in practice for three years. The bill does not say that.

Rep. Skarphol: Does it require they work full time?

Chairman Delzer: I don't know that it requires anything at all. It just appropriates the money to the State Department of Health to defray the expenses of a loan repayment program for dentists who practice in public health setting or non-profit dental clinic using a sliding fee schedule to bill patients. It doesn't say this but I suppose the Department of Health has all sorts of abilities to set rules and I would guess they would set the rules on how to do it.

Rep. Grande: Where do we see they get \$60,000 up front?

Chairman Delzer: That was the discussion from the carrier who brought it down. I don't think it says it in the bill at all. Everything would be set up by the Department of Health the way the bill is worded.

Lorie Laschkewitsch: The program was set up to give a \$60,000 grant over a two year period and that they were required to practice for a three year period. It was funded in 2009; but not funded in 2011.

Chairman Delzer: Do we have any information on how it was used in 2009? And whether those dentists are still practicing here?

Lorie: They are still practicing here. Three are three dentists that were funded. One in Bismarck; one in Fargo who still works in the Community Health Center; which is a

Chairman Delzer: Do we have any information on how it was used in 2009? And whether those dentists are still practicing here?

Lorie: They are still practicing here. Three are three dentists that were funded. One in Bismarck; one in Fargo who still works in the Community Health Center; which is a nonprofit dental clinic; and one in Grand Forks who is also working with the Community Health Center there.

Chairman Delzer: Do you have any information on how many open slots there are where there is active recruiting going on for dentists?

Lorie: I do not know that.

Chairman Delzer: The one in Bismarck; do they deal with the mobile dental clinic at all?

Lorie: I believe the contract for that mobile dental is with Bridging the Dental Gap and that is what the Bismarck dentist is.

Rep. Sanford: The one in Grand Forks is affiliated with the Northwood Clinic which is the head of that and I know they did serve 3200 patients last year.

Chairman Delzer: I think those health clinics don't serve just from the sliding fee schedule. They could go to those clinics and pay full price.

Rep. Skarphol: In 2012-13 we are paying \$23,400 per student per dental students that are going to school out of state. We had seven graduates in 10, 11, 12, and 13. We have had 43 dentists come back to the state since 2001. We did not know how many total students, but probably the total graduates were 55 and 60 graduates.

Chairman Delzer: Do we have a number on how many of the dental students that we fund out of the state? Or is it a limited number?

Rep. Skarphol: During the 2011-13 bienniums a total of 117 freshmen through senior received support through the Professional Student Exchange Program with a total appropriation of \$3.3 million. This year we have 10 veterinarian students; 8 dental students; and 6 optometrist students.

Chairman Delzer: I don't know if this does anything or not or whether those dentists would have come without this or not. It is general fund money. Lorie do you remember was it asked for and denied last session?

Lorie: It was requested and was not funded in the budget. I am not sure if there was a separate bill or not.

Do Pass Motion Made by Rep. Sanford; Seconded by Rep. Hawken.

Discussion:

Rep. Monson: This would do three dentists then?

Chairman Delzer: Under the rules that they have are those rules still active or would they have to redefine those rules again? Is it a case of putting out \$60,000 up front?

Lorie: I know that was the way the program was set up. Usually with these programs they pay like \$20,000 or \$30,000 each year for the two year period. I can find that out for sure.

Chairman Delzer: Is this the case of it has to be a new student or dentist coming in to those areas? Can somebody receive this grant more than once?

Lorie: I don't think they can receive this more than once, but I don't know for sure if it has to be a new dentist student.

Chairman Delzer: Even though they are currently practicing and had not received a grant?

Lorie: I don't believe so because I think what they are trying to do is bring a new dentist into the area to practice in a non-profit situation.

Roll call vote: 10 Yes 10 No 2 Absent Failed

Chairman Delzer: Any offers of any amendments?

Rep. Monson: I am not sure I am the one to make the motion here because I don't know much about the program, but Lorie was mentioning that you could do \$20,000 a year for three years that gets you three dentists and could pay it out over a three year period.

Chairman Delzer: This program is tied up as a two year program. You tied it up for three year deal your appropriation is going to run out in the third year?

Rep. Nelson moved to amend the three slots down to two and an appropriation of \$120,000. Seconded by Rep. Sanford.

Discussion:

Rep. Monson: You intent there to be any kind of rules like so much per year or what?

Rep. Nelson: I am assuming that was handled in the policy committee and there are rules are established already that would go forward.

Chairman Delzer: Lorie I would guess that policy is still in place there is just no money for it right now?

Lorie: That is correct. That policy is still in place and they would award down to two dentists; actually it is two payments over a three year period of \$30,000 each.

Chairman Delzer: The first and second year so it is done. \$30,000 the first year. What if somebody left? How would they try to recoup the money?

Lorie: It is in statue for this program. I am not certain what is set up for if they leave.

Voice vote carried.

Do Pass As Amended Motion Made by Rep. Nelson; Seconded by Rep. Glassheim.

Discussion: None

Vote: 10 Yes 10 No 2 Absent Failed

Chairman Delzer: Motion failed 10-10.

Closed.

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
4/8/13
Job 20998

Conference Committee

Jocelyn Gallagher

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state department of health for a loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics.

Minutes:

Chairman Delzer: We have the amended bill before us.

Rep. Guggisberg: I'd move to amend back to 180,000 that we started with.

Chairman Delzer: We have a motion to further amend. We amended the bill down to 120, is there a second, **Rep. Sanford second.** I'm going to resist the motion. I think two slots for now we did three a little while ago. I think two is probably enough for the next two years. Further discussion?

Rep. Monson: The ones that are there now, this is a three year program; there are three people out there, and we're adding two more. Those three originals could drop off.

Chairman Delzer: They are done by now.

Rep. Monson: Is there anything to preclude them from continuing to donate their time?

Chairman Delzer: There is nothing in here that says any of that; I think the rules are supposed to be so that it should be for new dentists. But it's rules set up by the health department.

Rep. Grande: I think what she had said the other day was the three that have already reached their payouts stayed in those three positions so they're all still working.

Chairman Delzer: I haven't read the rules. I don't believe they could apply again if they had it once for their current position but if they move I don't know if it allows them to apply or not.

Rep. Monson: I thought I heard the same thing, that some of those three people are still doing it, even though they aren't getting paid by the state anymore. By adding even two more slots, we are increasing the program. I think two is enough.

Chairman Delzer: Further discussion on the motion to further amend?

Rep. Glasheim: My understanding is these dentists get paid, but much less than they could in private practice.

Chairman Delzer: Further discussion on the motion to further amend back up to the 180?

Voice Vote then conducted roll call vote Motion fails 8-13-1. We have the amended bill before us, what are your wishes?

Rep. Glasheim moved Do Pass as amended, seconded by Rep. Sanford.

Rep. Wieland: The people who have used this before can or cannot use this?

Chairman Delzer: There's nothing in the bill to say they can't, it would be depending on the department of health to say they couldn't. I guess we could put language in here saying previous applicants cannot apply for a second time around. If we feel comfortable with that, we could do it.

Rep. Skarphol: Who decides who gets the grants?

Chairman Delzer: The department of health, using the health council.

Chairman Delzer: I'd be very surprised if they gave second time grants. People in the audience are shaking their heads, whatever that means.

Rep. Kempenich: We could put in legislative intent.

Chairman Delzer: (8:00) We should certainly put it in the minutes that this committee certainly does not think anyone who has received it once should ever receive it a second time. If we're passing this it should mean for new dentist coming into the state.

Chairman Delzer: Clerk will call a roll for a do pass as amended on SB 2354.
16-5-1 motion carries. Rep. Sanford will carry.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2354

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$180,000" with "\$120,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2354 - State Department of Health - House Action

	Executive Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Dental loan repayment program		\$180,000	(\$60,000)	\$120,000
Total all funds	\$0	\$180,000	(\$60,000)	\$120,000
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$0	\$180,000	(\$60,000)	\$120,000
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Department No. 301 - State Department of Health - Detail of House Changes

	Decreases Funding for Nonprofit Dental Loan Repayment Program ¹	Total House Changes
Dental loan repayment program	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)
Total all funds	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)
Less estimated income	0	0
General fund	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding for a loan repayment program for dentists who practice in a public setting or nonprofit dental clinic using a sliding fee scale schedule to bill patients is reduced to provide \$120,000 from the general fund to provide for two new dentists.

Date: 4/5/13
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354**

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Sanford Seconded By Rep. Hawken

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer		X	Rep. Streyle		X
Vice Chairman Kempenich		X	Rep. Thoreson	X	
Rep. Bellew		X	Rep. Wieland		X
Rep. Brandenburg		X			
Rep. Dosch		X			
Rep. Grande	X		Rep. Boe		
Rep. Hawken	X		Rep. Glassheim	X	
Rep. Kreidt		X	Rep. Guggisberg	X	
Rep. Martinson	X		Rep. Holman	X	
Rep. Monson	X		Rep. Williams		
Rep. Nelson	X				
Rep. Pollert		X			
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Skarphol		X			

Total Yes 10 No 10

Absent 2

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

motion fails

Date: 4/5/13
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354**

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Nelson Seconded By Rep. Sanford

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer			Rep. Streyle		
Vice Chairman Kempenich			Rep. Thoreson		
Rep. Bellew			Rep. Wieland		
Rep. Brandenburg					
Rep. Dosch					
Rep. Grande			Rep. Boe		
Rep. Hawken			Rep. Glassheim		
Rep. Kreidt			Rep. Guggisberg		
Rep. Martinson			Rep. Holman		
Rep. Monson			Rep. Williams		
Rep. Nelson					
Rep. Pollert					
Rep. Sanford					
Rep. Skarphol					

Total Yes _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

3 slots down to 2 + \$120,000

voice vote carries

Date: 4/5/13
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354**

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Nelson Seconded By Rep. Glassheim

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer		X	Rep. Streyle		X
Vice Chairman Kempenich		X	Rep. Thoreson	X	
Rep. Bellew		X	Rep. Wieland		X
Rep. Brandenburg		X			
Rep. Dosch		X			
Rep. Grande	X		Rep. Boe		
Rep. Hawken	X		Rep. Glassheim	X	
Rep. Kreidt		X	Rep. Guggisberg	X	
Rep. Martinson	X		Rep. Holman	X	
Rep. Monson	X		Rep. Williams		
Rep. Nelson	X				
Rep. Pollert		X			
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Skarphol		X			

Total Yes 10 No 10

Absent 2

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Motion fails

Date: 4/8/13
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Guggisberg Seconded By Rep. Sanford

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer		X	Rep. Streyle		X
Vice Chairman Kempenich		X	Rep. Thoreson		X
Rep. Bellew		X	Rep. Wieland		X
Rep. Brandenburg		X			
Rep. Dosch		X			
Rep. Grande		X	Rep. Boe	X	
Rep. Hawken	X		Rep. Glassheim	X	
Rep. Kreidt		X	Rep. Guggisberg	X	
Rep. Martinson	X		Rep. Holman	X	
Rep. Monson		X	Rep. Williams	X	
Rep. Nelson		X			
Rep. Pollert					
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Skarphol		X			

Total Yes 8 No 13

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

return to 3 slots / \$180,000

motion fails

Date: 4/8/13
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354**

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Glassheim Seconded By Rep. Sanford

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer		X	Rep. Streyle		X
Vice Chairman Kempenich	X		Rep. Thoreson	X	
Rep. Bellew		X	Rep. Wieland	X	
Rep. Brandenburg		X			
Rep. Dosch	X				
Rep. Grande	X		Rep. Boe	X	
Rep. Hawken	X		Rep. Glassheim	X	
Rep. Kreidt		X	Rep. Guggisberg	X	
Rep. Martinson	X		Rep. Holman	X	
Rep. Monson	X		Rep. Williams	X	
Rep. Nelson	X				
Rep. Pollert					
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Skarphol	X				

Total Yes 16 No 5

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Sanford

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2354: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2354 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$180,000" with "\$120,000"

Re-number accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2354 - State Department of Health - House Action

	Executive Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Dental loan repayment program		\$180,000	(\$60,000)	\$120,000
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FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Department No. 301 - State Department of Health - Detail of House Changes

	Decreases Funding for Nonprofit Dental Loan Repayment Program ¹	Total House Changes
Dental loan repayment program	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)
Total all funds	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)
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General fund	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding for a loan repayment program for dentists who practice in a public setting or nonprofit dental clinic using a sliding fee scale schedule to bill patients is reduced to provide \$120,000 from the general fund to provide for two new dentists.

2013 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2354

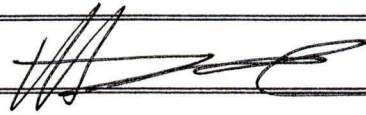
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
4/18/13
21242

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the state department of health for a loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Sen. J. Lee, Sen. Larsen, Sen. Axness are present.

Rep Hofstad, Rep. Fehr, Rep. Mooney are present.

Sen. J .Lee opens the conference Committee to opens SB 2354

Sen. J Lee asks **Rep. Hofstad** to explain the House amendments.

Rep. Fehr explains the changes of the funding to SB 2354.

Marsha Olsen with bridging the dental gap is recognized and explains the need for the funding and hiring dentists. **Rep. Hofstad** asks for clarification on who would be eligible for the program.

Sen. J. Lee discusses the program and the benefits of the program.

Sen. Larsen asks if any of the dentists will travel to other communities.

Marsha Olsen clarifies the mobile dental unit.

Rep. Fehr asks if there is any consideration on the number of dollars and the number of per person. Can the funding be split up.

Gary Garland with the dental loan repayment program dept. of health. Explains how many dentists can be on the program, and the funding. Mr. Garland clarifies the terms of the contract.

Sen. J. Lee discusses the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) program and SB 2160

Joe Cichy Executive Director of the Dental association is recognized and supports SB 2160.

There is a discussion about the WICHE program.

Sen. J Lee asks about amending the dollars.
There there is a discussion on repayments of loans.

Sen. J. Lee closes the conference Committee on SB 2354

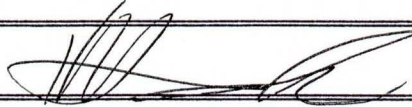
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2354
4/23/2013
21433

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the state department of health for a loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonpublic dental clinics.

Minutes:

Sens. J. Lee, Larsen, Axness are present.
Reps. Hofstad, Fehr, Mooney are present.

Sen. J. Lee opens the Conference Committee on SB 2354

Rep. Hofstad discusses to the number of dentists in the community health centers, and the patients see.

There is a discussion on Funding within SB 2354.

Sen. J. Lee discusses proposed amendment .01002

Marcia Olsen is recognized and discusses leaving the number 3 in. **Sen. Larsen** asks for clarification on \$180,000. **Rep. Hofstad** asks what HPSA means, and what the qualifiers for the federal loan.

Sen. J. Lee discusses proposed amendment .01003

There is a discussion the on proposed amendment. .01003

Rep. Hofstad motions House recede from House amendments

Rep. Mooney seconds

6 yes

0 no

0 absent.

Senate Carrier: Sen. J. Lee

House Carrier: Rep. Hofstad

There is a discussion about amendment .01003 for next session

Date 4-23-13

Roll Call Vote # 1

**2013 SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES**

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2354 as (re) engrossed

Senate Human Services Committee

- Action Taken**
- SENATE accede to House Amendments
 - SENATE accede to House Amendments and further amend
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments and amend as follows
 - Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: REP HOFSTAD Seconded by: REP MOONEY

Senators	4/18	4/23	Yes	No	Representatives	4/18	4/23	Yes	No
Sen. J. Lee	✓	✓	X		Rep. Hofstad	✓	✓	X	
Sen. Larsen	✓	✓	X		Rep. Fehr	✓	✓	X	
Sen. Axness	✓	✓	X		Rep. Mooney	✓	✓	X	
Total Senate Vote			3		Total Rep. Vote			3	

Vote Count Yes: 6 No: — Absent: —

Senate Carrier J. Lee House Carrier REP HOFSTAD

LC Number _____ of amendment

LC Number _____ of engrossment

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2354: Your conference committee (Sens. J. Lee, Larsen, Axness and Reps. Hofstad, Fehr, Mooney) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments as printed on SJ page 1242 and place SB 2354 on the Seventh order.

SB 2354 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

2013 TESTIMONY

SB 2354

Testimony

SB 2354

Human Services Committee

Sen. Judy Lee, Chairman

February 4, 2013

My name is Jackie Nord and I am a full time dentist with Valley Community Health Centers in Grand Forks. Throughout a typical day I see fifteen to twenty patients, many in dental pain. They come to Valley Community Health Centers because we don't turn people away based on their inability to pay for treatment.

January 31, the temperature outside was 10 below zero with a wind-chill in the negative 20s. However, at 7AM when I arrived, there were three people waiting to be seen. I understand how important our mission is every day. Without the community health center many of our neighbors would have no place to turn.

On a daily basis my job is very rewarding, but I am concerned that my student loan debt may not allow me to stay in this position for very long. (And I love my job!) Dental school has put me in debt that cannot be paid off easily with my salary from Valley Community Health Center. The University of Minnesota tuition was \$50,000 a year for 4 years. I knew I always wanted to work with a community health clinic, and I know loan repayment is available in other states. Please pass the dental loan repayment bill to keep qualified local dentists in North Dakota.

Thank you.

Testimony

SB 2354

Human Services Committee

Sen. Judy Lee, Chairman

February 4, 2013

My name is Grant Korsmo and I am the dental director at Valley Community Health Centers Dental Clinic in Grand Forks. I would like your support for loan repayment for clinics like ours. We see patients who are uninsured, underinsured, and on Medicaid regardless of their ability to pay.

I love my job and have been here since the doors have opened. Since we are a Health Center, we are not able to offer the same salary that a dentist can make in private practice. Student loan debt has become an enormous burden costing us around \$250,000-\$300,000 for our education. With that kind of debt coming out of school, it is tough to recruit and retain qualified dentists to work in our clinic when they can become an associate and make a significant amount more than we offer here. This loan repayment bill will greatly aid us in finding quality dentists to work here, and retain them for at least a period of time. I feel we do excellent work here and help a great number of low income residents of North Dakota. Passing this bill will help us to continue our mission.

Thanks for your time.

Testimony

SB 2354

Human Services Committee

Sen. Judy Lee, Chairman

February 4, 2013

Good morning Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Sharon Ericson; I am the CEO of Valley Community Health Centers. We have medical clinics in Northwood and Larimore and a dental clinic in Grand Forks. In 2012 we served 3198 people in our dental clinic. Many of these people have incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

Valley Community Health Centers serves people without regard to their ability to pay through a Sliding Fee Schedule which is supported in part by Federal funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration. Valley Community Health Centers is a 501 c 3 organization with a board of directors comprised of people who are patients of the clinic.

Valley Community Health Centers supports SB 2354, which provides for Loan repayment for the dentists who practice in the public health dental clinics in North Dakota. At the present time, there is a loan repayment fund which provides support for dentists who choose to practice in rural North Dakota. Valley Community Health Centers believes that the support for rural practice is very important; after all, both Northwood and Larimore are rural communities and we serve a population over 3600 square miles in the Northern Red River Valley. However, we support the additional pool of funds for public health dental clinic loan repayment for these reasons.

Valley Community Health Centers has operated a dental clinic since November 2008. In the first year of operation, 85% of the people we served had not seen a dentist in the previous 5 years. Since 2008, that percentage is reduced so that in 2012, only 14% had not seen a dentist in the previous five years.

We have 3 young dentists practicing with us. All of them have significant debt. I am also carrying the testimony of our two co-dental directors. As you will hear, they are each deeply

committed to the work we do in public health dentistry: serving people who are unable to access care anywhere else due to their insurance or lack of money. However, both would make much more money in private practice in Grand Forks and they both know this because they are married to young dentists in private practice.

As a Community Health Center we can offer some loan repayment for our medical providers through the National Health Service Corps, a federal program. However their funds are generally not available to dentists and increasingly limited for all providers. Dentists are in great demand across the country so there is a limited pool of potential providers. Offering low salaries doesn't make recruitment easier.

Valley Community Health Centers continues to expand the number of people we see in the dental clinic; for example there was a 7% increase from 2011 to 2012. Demand for oral health care does not appear to be declining. We have periods where patients cannot be seen for a month or six weeks due to an already full schedule.

SB 2354 will provide loan repayment for providers in a group of clinics unlike any others in the state. All of us see high percentages of persons with Medicaid as their insurance as well as those with no insurance. Valley Community Health Centers supports the notion that a state investment in retaining oral health providers in public health dentistry is a very good investment. Oral health is a crucial part of our overall health; we believe that dentists are critical providers of care.

Funds provided by SB 2354 will assist our efforts to provide oral health access. I urge you to recommend a Do Pass for SB 2354 to support and assure access and continuity of care for our patients.

Thank you for allowing me to bring this testimony before you.

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2354
Dental Student Loan Repayment
Marcia Olson
Executive Director of Bridging the Dental Gap
February 2013

Our clinic- Bridging the Dental Gap – is a non-profit entity overseen by a Board of Directors of volunteers from the community. Our mission is to provide access to dental care for Medicaid and low income patients using a sliding fee scale based on national poverty guidelines. The services offered range from exams and cleanings, fillings, extractions, some root canals and crowns and dentures and partials. Over 500 appointments per month are covered and we would like to be able to do more. Three to four patients a day are seen with dental emergencies and toothpain; many referred from the local Emergency Rooms. Staffing consists of two dentists, two hygienists and three dental assistants. We are looking to add another dentist to the team. We also have an outreach program to 2 area nursing home/long term care facilities. We provide basic dental care to an additional 50 patients a month in these settings. The plan is to expand to 2 additional sites in the coming year. Additionally we also staff the Ronald McDonald Caremobile providing services to children in the western portions of North Dakota.

There are a number of challenges to providing dental access to the underserved populations but the biggest one is hiring and retaining sufficient staff to provide services and potentially expand . Since we are a non-profit, we operate within the constraints of tight budgets. Dentists are able to make higher incomes in the private sector. We need means to attract and retain dentists to service these lower income individuals who lack access to regular dental care.

One of the best “carrots” for recruitment is the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program. This loan repayment program is already in statute (ND CC 43-28 and specifically 43-28.1-01.1). There are 2 parts to this student loan repayment program. The first portion is one that provides loan repayment to dentists who are going to practice in rural areas. The second portion is one that provides loan repayment to dentists who will practice in public health non-profit dental clinics. The first part of the program for rural areas is already addressed in the Health Department Budget within the Governor's budget. The second part that pertains to non-profit dentists is not in the budget. This second part was only funded in the 2009 biennium. There seems to be a lack of understanding that these two portions of the code require separate funding.

#4

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2354
Dental Student Loan Repayment
Page Two

In 2009 three dentists received funding under this program. One each from the Grand Forks and Fargo safety net clinics and one from Bridging the Dental Gap. We believe that the Dental Loan Repayment program is a viable means to attract good dental practitioners, retain them in the public health arena, and reward them for service to their communities. Dentists graduate from school with a minimum of \$100,000 in education loans and most have double that amount. This bill would fund \$20,000 per year for three years in loan reduction for three dentists. The total impact of the bill would be \$180,000.

There are five area non-profits that would currently be eligible for funding under this program: Grand Forks, Fargo, Turtle Lake, and Bridging the Dental Gap together with the Ronald McDonald Caremobile.

We are asking you to support SB 2354 to add funding for the 2nd portion of the repayment program.

Thank you.

SB 2354

Human Services Committee

Senator Judy Lee, Chair

February 4, 2013

Testimony

Chairman Lee and Members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Patricia Patron, CEO of Family HealthCare in Fargo.

Family HealthCare supports SB 2354, which provides for loan repayment for the dentists who practice in non-profit and public health dental clinics serving the most vulnerable populations in the State, including the uninsured and those living under poverty in North Dakota.

Family HealthCare has operated as a private nonprofit health center for twenty years, providing access to primary health care services, including dental care for the uninsured, underinsured, those on medical assistance, and those who have health insurance coverage but are unable to afford the high price of health care. Family HealthCare is also the only provider of Homeless Health Services in the State. Our services are provided to patients regardless of their ability to pay, often times to individuals and families that would otherwise go without healthcare. Family HealthCare is the only health care facility in our community that completely removes the financial barriers to patient care through a sliding fee scale program.

In 2012, Family HealthCare provided care to 11,500 unduplicated patients. Of patients receiving care, 87%, or over 10,000 people, had incomes at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines and 37.7% were uninsured. In addition, 38% of patients received Medicaid or other public assistance. Family HealthCare provided 9,000 dental visits in 2012. Most of our patients report that lack of insurance or financial resources impedes their access to prompt, appropriate dental care services. Family HealthCare is committed to serving the most vulnerable populations in the state including young

children, individuals living in homelessness and poverty, New Americans, and the elderly.

The current loan repayment program in the State gives preference to dentists who choose to practice in rural North Dakota. Family HealthCare supports the current program as we are aware of the significant dental access needs for individuals living in rural areas in the State. We know this first hand, as it is not unusual for Family HealthCare to have patients that travel more than 100 miles to access dental services at our clinics.

Family HealthCare supports the additional funding for public health and non-profit dental clinic loan repayment for the following reasons:

Barriers to dental access in our State are significant.

- Too few providers accept patients covered by Medicaid - Non-profit and public health clinics like Family HealthCare are often the only providers that accept patients covered by Medicaid. Although these patients have the coverage that would allow for them to receive basic preventative and restorative care, the resources are just not available.

- Our clinics also serve patients who do not have any dental insurance - The expense of dental insurance is financially out of reach for many individuals. This leaves many to go without insurance, often accessing expensive, preventable emergency services. According to the Pew Research Center, in 2012, accessing dental services in the emergency room costs ten times as much as a visit for preventative care

- Medicare does not include dental services - A significant number of uninsured dental patients in the State include the elderly, covered by Medicare, but lacking dental insurance because Medicare does not provide any dental coverage.

Another significant issue is the fact that most of the uninsured in our State are young adults, working more than one part-time job without benefits and living under poverty. This segment of the population is not eligible for any public programs like Medicaid in North Dakota. Keeping our working force healthy is critical for the economic wellbeing

of the State. Access to dental services ensures the immediate and future overall health of our work force. Timely dental access can detect early signs of oral health problems and can lead to treatments that will prevent further damage and in some cases reverse the problem. Oral health access also improves patient health outcomes related to issues such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and it can decrease the risk for complicated pregnancies.

Most of the individuals and families that we serve have delayed seeing a dentist for years. Many report that the lack of dental insurance impedes their access to prompt dental services. Our services are open to all, regardless of ability to pay. Family HealthCare has struggled tremendously in the past to recruit dentists to serve our vulnerable patient population. Two years ago, we were very fortunate to be able to attract a young North Dakota dentist fresh out of dental school. She left the state for school, but returned to accept the position because she was intrigued by the mission of the organization. Dr. Wilson took a salary below the dentist market salary in our community. Dr. Wilson's young family has benefited from loan repayment. It has relieved substantial debt from her school loans. Today, Dr. Wilson and our small team of dentists serves only uninsured, homeless, low income, and Medicaid insured patients at Family HealthCare.

It is our hope that we can keep our current dentists and attract new dentists to our practice and the State by being able to participate in the North Dakota dental loan repayment program. North Dakota is one of 36 states that participate in a loan repayment program, bringing young people back to the State and attracting new residents. The ultimate benefit comes back to our patients by being able to offer the access to dental care they deserve to live healthy lives.

Funds provided by SB 2354 will assist our efforts to provide oral health care access. I urge you to recommend a Do Pass for SB 2354 to support and ensure access and continuity of care for our patients.

Thank you for allowing me to bring this testimony before you.

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Family HealthCare Dental Clinic in Fargo, North Dakota. My name is Dr. Andrea Wilson and I have worked here since July of 2010. I am hoping that I can help you to see the importance of Senate Bill 2354.

I would like to respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 2354. This is a bill that designates state loan repayment to dentists working in one of the three non-profit, public health clinics in the State. I am currently a recipient of this loan repayment, and the amount of burden that this loan repayment has lifted is immeasurable. I truly enjoy working at Family HealthCare and serving its mission, but I do not know if I would have taken this job without loan repayment. Most private offices have the ability to offer substantially higher salaries than Community Health Centers do. While working as the Dental Director at Family HealthCare, the patients I see on daily basis are primarily uninsured, homeless, or Medicaid recipients. Without Family HealthCare and the dentists that work here, many of these patients would not have access to dental care.

It is very hard for Community Health Centers to recruit new dentists. Most of the people who want to work here are new graduates who are just getting some income while they set up a private office, or older dentists who are interested in working a few days a week. What we need are motivated dentists who want to work here for many years. In order to find dentists like this we must have added incentive. We cannot even come close to the salary that dentists can achieve in the private sector. Loan repayment is the only

#6

way to close the gap difference in this salary and allow dentists the ability to reduce their student debt.

I urge you and your fellow senators and representatives to consider this bill and hopefully you can understand how important it is in bringing quality care to the underserved populations in our State.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Wilson, DMD

Testimony

SB – 2354

Senate Human Services Committee

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman

February 4, 2013

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Patrick Butler; I am the CEO of Northland Community Health Center. We are a Community Health Center with medical clinics in Turtle Lake, McClusky, Rolette, and Rolla and a dental clinic in Turtle Lake. I am here in favor of SB – 2354. I believe it is vital for the delivery of dental care to the residents of North Dakota, especially for those who are uninsured, under-insured, or low-income.

Community Health Centers are community based health centers who may provide any combination of primary care, dental care, and mental health services to residents who live in Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) or Medically Underserved Populations (MUP). These areas are defined as areas with a shortage of healthcare providers, or a high percentage of low income, elderly residents, or infant mortality.

Northland Community Health Center is a 501 c 3 organization whose board of directors are patients of our clinics. We provide high quality services to all patients without regard to their income or ability to pay. We are not a free clinic; however, fees for services provided are reduced by the use of a Sliding Fee Schedule with relation to the most current National Poverty Guidelines published annually by the Health and Human Services. Our ability to reduce the fees for services provided is funded by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA).

In 2012 Northland Community Health Center provided a total 19,794 visits to our patients, of which 5,028 or 25.4% were dental Services provided in our Turtle Lake Dental Clinic.

In McClusky and Rolette where we provide medical services, there are no dental services available, and in Rolla, dental services are provided by a private dentist, however that dentist has met their capacity and is strictly limiting access to new patients at this time. Thus, patients seeking dental services in these areas must travel further to get dental services.

In general, recruiting healthcare providers into Rural America is an endless struggle for all Community Health Centers who spend hard earned and precious dollars in finding doctors and dentists willing to practice in relatively remote and isolated locations. In addition, according to the US Census Bureau, the estimated population in North Dakota has increased from 672,591 in 2010 to 699,628 in 2012. I believe North Dakota's healthcare needs are increasing at a faster rate than the available supply of healthcare providers and will result in further strain on our current healthcare provider base.

To recruit qualified dental providers, Community Health Centers must offer top dollars, along with excellent benefit packages and incentives just to capture the attention of potential dental providers. Although I do not believe Senate Bill NO. 2354 will in itself solve the growing gap between the healthcare needs and North Dakota's ability to meet this need, I feel it is absolutely vital in giving nonprofit dental clinics greater ability to provide equitable incentives to recruit and retain qualified dentists.

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, this concludes my testimony in support of Senate Bill NO. 2354. I thank you for your time, consideration and support of our efforts to meet the healthcare needs of North Dakota.

Testimony
Senate Bill 2354
Senate Human Services Committee
February 4, 2013

Good morning Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Kathleen Mangskau and I am here today representing the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Bismarck. We own and operate the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile which provides oral health care to low-income and underserved children ages 0 through 21 in the western half of North Dakota. I serve as a dental public health consultant to the Care Mobile project. I am providing testimony in support of SB 2354 to provide an appropriation for dental loan repayment for public health clinics and nonpublic dental clinics.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile project contracts with Bridging the Dental Gap, Inc., a private non-profit organization in Bismarck, to provide the clinical dental services on the Care Mobile. We have one full time dentist working on the Care Mobile. In 2012 we served nearly 800 patients and provided nearly 2,000 appointments and 8,000 dental services. Bridging the Dental Gap needs more dentists not only to meet the need in their clinic, but also on the Care Mobile. With just one dentist on the Care Mobile, we have no back-up. Because this dentist travels to a different site each week, it would be helpful to have another dentist that could fill in and give this dentist some relief. The Care Mobile has two operatories; one is currently used by the dentist and one by the hygienist. If we had another dentist available, we could put two dentists on the Care Mobile at some of the sites with extremely high patient need and move the hygienist into the school with portable equipment. This would allow us to deliver almost twice the amount of restorative care.

One of the challenges faced by Bridging the Dental Gap and other dental public health clinics is recruiting and retaining dentists in public health settings. Loan repayment would help entice and keep new providers in these clinics.

We urge your support of SB2354. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Grant Korsmo
SB 2354
2-21-13

#1

Letter to Senate Appropriations Committee

My name is Grant Korsmo and I am the dental director at Valley Community Health Centers Dental Clinic in Grand Forks. I would like your support for loan repayment for clinics like ours. We see patients who are uninsured, underinsured, and on Medicaid regardless of their ability to pay.

I love my job and have been here since the doors have opened. Since we are a Health Center, we are not able to offer the same salary that a dentist can make in private practice. Student loan debt has become an enormous burden costing us around \$250,000-\$300,000 for our education. With that kind of debt coming out of school, it is tough to recruit and retain qualified dentists to work in our clinic when they can become an associate and make a significant amount more than we offer here. This loan repayment bill will greatly aid us in finding quality dentists to work here, and retain them for at least a period of time. I feel we do excellent work here and help a great number of low income residents of North Dakota. Passing this bill will help us to continue our mission.

Thanks for your time.

Jackie Nord
SB 2354
2-21-13

2

Letter to Senate Appropriates Committee

My name is Jackie Nord and I am a full time dentist with Valley Community Health Centers in Grand Forks. Throughout a typical day I see fifteen to twenty patients, many in dental pain. They come to Valley Community Health Centers because we don't turn people away based on their inability to pay for treatment.

January 31, the temperature outside was 10 below zero with a wind-chill in the negative 20s.

However, at 7AM when I arrived, there were three people waiting to be seen. I understand how important our mission is every day. Without the community health center many of our neighbors would have no place to turn.

On a daily basis my job is very rewarding, but I am concerned that my student loan debt may not allow me to stay in this position for very long. (And I love my job!) Dental school has put me in debt that cannot be paid off easily with my salary from Valley Community Health Center. The University of Minnesota tuition was \$50,000 a year for 4 years. I knew I always wanted to work with a community health clinic, and I know loan repayment is available in other states. Please pass the dental loan repayment bill to keep qualified local dentists in North Dakota.

Thank you.

Dr. Andrea Wilson
SB 2354
2-21-13

3

Dear Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Family HealthCare Dental Clinic in Fargo, North Dakota. My name is Dr. Andrea Wilson and I have worked here since July of 2010. I am hoping that I can help you to see the importance of Senate Bill 2354.

I would like to respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 2354. This is a bill that designates state loan repayment to dentists working in one of the three non-profit, public health clinics in the State. I am currently a recipient of this loan repayment, and the amount of burden that this loan repayment has lifted is immeasurable. I truly enjoy working at Family HealthCare and serving its mission, but I do not know if I would have taken this job without loan repayment. Most private offices have the ability to offer substantially higher salaries than Community Health Centers do. While working as the Dental Director at Family HealthCare, the patients I see on daily basis are primarily uninsured, homeless, or Medicaid recipients. Without Family HealthCare and the dentists that work here, many of these patients would not have access to dental care.

It is very hard for Community Health Centers to recruit new dentists. Most of the people who want to work here are new graduates who are just getting some income while they set up a private office, or older dentists who are interested in working a few days a week. What we need are motivated dentists who want to work here for many years. In order to find dentists like this we must have added incentive. We cannot even come close to the salary that dentists can achieve in the private sector. Loan repayment is the only

way to close the gap difference in this salary and allow dentists the ability to reduce their student debt.

I urge you and your fellow senators and representatives to consider this bill and hopefully you can understand how important it is in bringing quality care to the underserved populations in our State.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Wilson, DMD

#1

Senate Bill 2354
Marcia Olson
Bridging the Dental Gap
March 12, 2013

We are here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2354 which provides funding for Dental Student Loan repayment for non-profit safety net clinics. This provision is already in statute, a copy of which is in the handout. The statute needs your action in order to be funded. Funding is required in the amount of \$180,000. This will support three positions for three full time dentists for the safety net clinics in North Dakota.

In 2009 section 43-28.0-01.1 was added to statute and funded in response to the need of the non-profit clinics to attract dentists to their practices to provide services to the low income populations of North Dakota citizens. Prior to adding this section of statute, the dental loan repayment was provided to dentists returning to North Dakota and practicing in rural areas. The original intent of the first portion of the statute was to provide rural access to care. The non-profit clinics realized the greatest need was to attract dentists into public health service and brought this to the legislature. After passage and funding in 2009, three dentists joined three separate clinics—one in Grand Forks, Fargo and here in Bismarck at Bridging the Dental Gap. In 2011, the last legislative session, this section pertaining to non-profit clinics was not funded. The only section which was funded was that for rural dentists or specialists (pediatric dentists). Again in 2013 the only section of Dental Student Loan Repayment that is funded in the governor's budget and was prioritized in the Health Department budget was the first section which gives funding for rural access. The Health Department budget contained the section of the Dental Student Loan Repayment as one of the Optional choices at #10 on that list.

We believe that Dental Student Loan Repayment to the non-profits should be a much higher priority and should receive funding. You will hear today for most all of the non-profits in the state either in oral or written testimony.

The clinic for which I am the director needs to have the Dental Student Loan Repayment in order to attract a dentist to public health practice. A dentist gets out of school with a minimum of \$150,000 in debt and many more with amounts double that. They need to make large repayments on these loans to get them manageable. In private practice a dentist can earn much more than in public health practices simply because we are unable to pay them due to budget constraints. The best enticement we could possibly offer would be the student loan repayment of portions of their debt.

Bridging the Dental Gap is non-profit dental clinic in Bismarck. We receive no federal funding other than occasional grants for equipment. Currently our services are only offered to a 50 mile radius of Bismarck-Mandan because we do not have enough staffing to offer care to a wider area. Bridging the Dental Gap has been open for 8 ½ years. In that time we have established a patient base of 14,000 patients. We are able to provide care at 600 appointments per month in our clinic. Additionally we do outreach services to long term care facilities to treat the elderly. We started this program in September 2011 and since that time have provided over 1000 appointments in two nursing facilities in Bismarck. Bridging the Dental Gap is also the clinical provider for the Ronald McDonald Caremobile reaching out to children throughout western North Dakota. This means that we provide all the staffing for the Caremobile. We would like to expand our service area and would be able to do this if we could provide the staffing. We are currently seeking two dentists, one to replace an individual who is leaving and one to expand programs.

The clinic in Fargo and our clinic were recently vying for the same dentist . Just yesterday he talked with each of us and had decided not to come to either of our clinics. We asked him what was the draw back. His answer was that we could not offer him a student loan repayment program. This man would have been ideally suited to either of our needs and had additional training in public health and he was even a North Dakota native.

I urge you to listen to the information from each of the clinics and help us to provide service to the most vulnerable populations in North Dakota. Please help us to get funding for the Dental Student Loan Repayment program for non-profit clinics.

**CHAPTER 43-28.1
DENTISTS' LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

43-28.1-01. Loan repayment program - Dentists - Maximum amount of funds.

Each year the state health council shall select from a pool of applicants no more than three dentists who shall provide dental services to communities in this state. The dentists are eligible to receive funds for the repayment of their education loans. The funds, which are payable over a four-year period, may not exceed eighty thousand dollars per applicant. If the state health council accepts any gifts, grants, or donations under this chapter, the council may select additional dentists for participation in the loan repayment program under this chapter.

43-28.1-01.1. Loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonprofit dental clinics.

1. If funds have been appropriated specifically for loan repayment to dentists who practice in a public health setting or a nonprofit dental clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule to bill patients, during the first year of each biennium the health council shall select from a pool of applicants no more than three dentists who provide or will provide dental services in a public health clinic or nonprofit dental clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule to bill patients. A dentist who receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to repay the dentist's educational loans. The maximum grant award is sixty thousand dollars per recipient which is paid to the recipient over a two-year period.
2. Unless otherwise provided under this section, sections 43-28.1-02 and 43-28.1-04, subsections 1, 2, and 3 of section 43-28.1-03, and sections 43-28.1-05, 43-28.1-06, 43-28.1-07, 43-28.1-08, and 43-28.1-09 apply to this grant.
3. A recipient who receives a grant under this section shall serve three years as a full-time practicing dentist in the public health setting or a nonprofit clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule to bill patients and must be paid the grant funds during the first two years of this service.

43-28.1-02. Loan repayment program - Dentists - Powers of state health council.

The state health council may:

1. Determine the eligibility and qualifications of an applicant for loan repayment funds under this chapter.
2. Identify communities that are in need of a dentist and establish a priority ranking for participation in the program by the selected communities.
3. Create and distribute a loan repayment application.
4. Determine the amount of the loan repayment funds for which a dentist is eligible under this chapter and, in making this determination, examine any outstanding education loans incurred by the applicant.
5. Establish conditions regarding the use of the loan repayment funds.
6. Enter a four-year nonrenewable contract with the dentist and the selected community to provide to the dentist funds for the repayment of education loans in exchange for the dentist agreeing to practice in the selected community.
7. Receive and use funds appropriated for the program.
8. Enforce any contract under the program.
9. Cancel a contract for reasonable cause.
10. Participate in federal programs that support the repayment of education loans incurred by dentists and agree to the conditions of the federal programs.
11. Accept property from an entity.
12. Cooperate with the state department of health to effectuate this chapter.

43-28.1-03. Dentist selection criteria - Eligibility for loan repayment.

1. In establishing the criteria regarding a dentist's eligibility for loan repayment funds under this chapter, the state health council shall include consideration of:

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SB 2354

Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chair

March 12, 2013

Testimony

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Patricia Patron, CEO of Family HealthCare in Fargo.

Family HealthCare supports SB 2354, which provides for loan repayment for the dentists who practice in non-profit and public health dental clinics serving the most vulnerable individuals and families in the State, including the uninsured and those living under poverty in North Dakota.

Family HealthCare has operated as a private, nonprofit health center for twenty years, providing access to primary health care services, including dental care for the uninsured, underinsured, those on medical assistance, and those who have health insurance coverage but are unable to afford the high price of healthcare. Family HealthCare is also the only provider of Homeless Health Services in the State. Our services are provided to patients regardless of their ability to pay, often times to individuals and families that would otherwise go without healthcare. Family HealthCare is the only healthcare facility in our community that completely removes the financial barriers to patient care through a sliding fee scale program.

In 2012, Family HealthCare provided care to almost 11,500 unduplicated patients. Of patients receiving care, 87%, or over 10,000 people, had incomes at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines and 37.7% were uninsured. In addition, 38% of patients received Medicaid or other public assistance. Family HealthCare provided 9,000 dental visits in 2012. Most of our patients report that lack of insurance or financial resources impedes their access to prompt, appropriate dental care services. Family HealthCare is committed to serving the most vulnerable populations in the state including young

#2 p2

children, individuals living in homelessness and poverty, New Americans, and the elderly.

The current loan repayment program in the State gives preference to dentists who choose to practice in rural North Dakota. Family HealthCare supports the current program as we are aware of the significant dental access needs for individuals living in rural areas of the State. We know this first hand, as it is not unusual for Family HealthCare to have patients that travel more than 100 miles to access dental services at our clinics.

Family HealthCare supports the additional funding for public health and non-profit dental clinic loan repayment for the following reasons:

Barriers to dental access in our State are significant.

- Too few providers accept patients covered by Medicaid: Non-profit and public health clinics like Family HealthCare are often the only providers that accept patients covered by Medicaid. Although these patients have the coverage that would allow for them to receive basic preventative and restorative care, the resources are just not available.
- Our clinics also serve patients who do not have any dental insurance: The expense of dental insurance is financially out of reach for many individuals and families. This leaves many to go without insurance, often accessing expensive, preventable emergency services. According to the Pew Research Center, in 2012, accessing dental services in the emergency room costs ten times as much as a visit for preventative care.
- Medicare does not include dental services: A significant number of uninsured dental patients in the State include the elderly, covered by Medicare, but lacking dental insurance because Medicare does not provide any dental coverage.

Another significant issue is the fact that most of the uninsured in our State are young adults, working more than one part-time job without benefits and living under poverty. This segment of the population is not eligible for any public programs like Medicaid in

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North Dakota. Keeping our working force healthy is critical for the economic wellbeing of the State. Access to dental services ensures the immediate and future overall health of our work force. Timely dental access can detect early signs of oral health problems and can lead to treatments that will prevent further damage and in some cases reverse the problem. Oral health access also improves patient health outcomes related to issues such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and it can decrease the risk for complicated pregnancies.

Most of the individuals and families that we serve have delayed seeing a dentist for years. Many report that the lack of dental insurance impedes their access to prompt dental services. Our services are open to all, regardless of ability to pay. Family HealthCare has struggled tremendously in the past to recruit dentists to serve our vulnerable patient population. Two years ago, we were very fortunate to be able to attract a young North Dakota dentist fresh out of dental school. She left the state for school, but returned to accept the position because she was intrigued by the mission of the organization. Dr. Wilson took a salary below the dentist market salary in our community. Dr. Wilson's young family has benefited from loan repayment. It has relieved substantial debt from her school loans. Today, Dr. Wilson and our small team of dentists serves only uninsured, homeless, low income, and Medicaid insured patients at Family HealthCare.

It is our hope that we can keep our current dentists and attract new dentists to our practice and the State by being able to participate in the North Dakota dental loan repayment program. North Dakota is one of 36 states that participate in a loan repayment program, bringing young people back to the State and attracting new residents. The ultimate benefit comes back to our patients by being able to offer the access to dental care they deserve to live healthy lives.

Funds provided by SB 2354 will assist our efforts to provide oral health care access. I urge you to recommend a Do Pass for SB 2354 to support and ensure access and continuity of care for our patients.

Thank you for allowing me to bring this testimony before you.

Testimony

SB 2354

Human Services Committee

Rep. Robin Weisz, Chairman

March 12, 2013

Good morning Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Sharon Ericson; I am the CEO of Valley Community Health Centers. We have medical clinics in Northwood and Larimore and a dental clinic in Grand Forks. In 2012 we served 3198 people in our dental clinic. Most of those people have incomes at or below the federal poverty level. Sixty-eight percent have Medicaid as their insurance.

Valley Community Health Centers serves people without regard to their ability to pay through a Sliding Fee Schedule which is supported in part by Federal funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration. Valley Community Health Centers is a 501 c 3 organization with a board of directors comprised of people who are patients of the clinic.

Valley Community Health Centers supports SB 2354, which provides for Loan repayment for the dentists who practice in the public health dental clinics in North Dakota. At the present time, there is a loan repayment fund which provides support for dentists who choose to practice in rural North Dakota. Valley Community Health Centers believes that the support for rural practice is very important; after all, both Northwood and Larimore are rural communities and we serve a population over 3600 square miles in the Northern Red River Valley. However, we support the additional pool of funds for public health dental clinic loan repayment for these reasons.

Valley Community Health Centers has operated a dental clinic since November 2008. In the first year of operation, 85% of the people we served had not seen a dentist in the previous 5 years. Since 2008, that percentage is reduced so that in 2012, only 14% had not seen a dentist in the previous five years.

We have 3 young dentists practicing with us. All of them have significant debt. I am also carrying the testimony of our two co-dental directors. As you will hear, they are each deeply committed to the work we do in public health dentistry: serving people who are unable to access care anywhere else due to their insurance or lack of money. However, both would make much more money in private practice in Grand Forks and they both know this because they are married to young dentists in private practice.

As a Community Health Center we can offer some loan repayment for our medical providers through the National Health Service Corps, a federal program. However their funds are generally not available to dentists and increasingly limited for all providers. Dentists are in great demand across the country so there is a limited pool of potential providers. Offering low salaries doesn't make recruitment easier.

Valley Community Health Centers continues to expand the number of people we see in the dental clinic; for example there was a 7% increase from 2011 to 2012. Demand for oral health care does not appear to be declining. We have periods where patients cannot be seen for a month or six weeks due to an already full schedule.

SB 2354 will provide loan repayment for providers in a group of clinics unlike any others in the state. All of us see high percentages of persons with Medicaid as their insurance as well as those with no insurance. Valley Community Health Centers supports the notion that a state investment in retaining oral health providers in public health dentistry is a very good investment. Oral health is a crucial part of our overall health; we believe that dentists are critical providers of care.

Funds provided by SB 2354 will assist our efforts to provide oral health access. I urge you to recommend a Do Pass for SB 2354 to support and assure access and continuity of care for our patients.

Thank you for allowing me to bring this testimony before you.

Testimony

SB 2354

Human Services Committee

Rep. Robin Weisz, Chairman

March 12, 2013

My name is Jackie Nord and I am a full time dentist with Valley Community Health Centers in Grand Forks. Throughout a typical day I see fifteen to twenty patients, many in dental pain. They come to Valley Community Health Centers because we don't turn people away based on their inability to pay for treatment.

This winter, the temperature outside often fell to 10 below zero with a wind-chill in the negative 20s. However, at 7AM when I arrive at work, there are people outside, waiting to be seen. I understand how important our mission is every day. Without the community health center many of our neighbors would have no place to turn.

On a daily basis my job is very rewarding, but I am concerned that my student loan debt may not allow me to stay in this position for very long. (And I love my job!) Dental school has put me in debt that cannot be paid off easily with my salary from Valley Community Health Centers. The University of Minnesota tuition was \$50,000 a year for 4 years. I knew I always wanted to work with a community health clinic, and I know loan repayment is available in other states. Please pass the dental loan repayment bill to keep qualified local dentists in North Dakota.

Thank you.

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Testimony

SB 2354

Human Services Committee

Rep. Robin Weisz, Chairman

March 12, 2013

My name is Grant Korsmo and I am the co-dental director at Valley Community Health Centers Dental Clinic in Grand Forks. I would like your support for loan repayment for clinics like ours. We see patients who are uninsured, underinsured, and on Medicaid regardless of their ability to pay.

I love my job and have been here since the doors have opened. Since we are a Health Center, we are not able to offer the same salary that a dentist can make in private practice. Student loan debt has become an enormous burden costing us around \$250,000-\$300,000 for our education. With that kind of debt coming out of school, it is tough to recruit and retain qualified dentists to work in our clinic when they can become an associate and make a significant amount more that we offer here. This loan repayment bill will greatly aid us in finding quality dentists to work here, and retain them for at least a period of time. I feel we do excellent work here and help a great number of low income residents of North Dakota. Passing this bill will help us to continue our mission.

Thanks for your time.

Testimony

SB 2354

House Human Services Committee

Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman

March 12, 2013

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Patrick Butler; I am the CEO of Northland Community Health Center. We are a Community Health Center with medical clinics in Turtle Lake, McClusky, Rolette, and Rolla and a dental clinic in Turtle Lake. I am here in favor of SB 2354. I believe it is vital for the delivery of dental care to the residents of North Dakota, especially for those who are uninsured, underinsured, or low-income.

Community Health Centers are community based health centers that may provide any combination of primary care, dental care, and mental health services to residents who live in Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) or Medically Underserved Populations (MUP). These areas are defined as areas with a shortage of healthcare providers, or a high percentage of low income, elderly residents, or infant mortality.

Northland Community Health Center is a 501 c 3 organization whose board of directors are patients of our clinics. We provide high quality services to all patients without regard to their income or ability to pay. We are not a free clinic; however, fees for services provided are reduced by the use of a Sliding Fee Schedule with relation to the most current National Poverty Guidelines published annually by the Health and Human Services. Our ability to reduce

the fees for services provided is funded by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA).

In 2012 Northland Community Health Center provided a total 19,794 visits to our patients, of which 5,028 or 25.4% were dental Services provided in our Turtle Lake Dental Clinic.

In McClusky and Rolette where we provide medical services, there are no dental services available, and in Rolla, dental services are provided by a private dentist, however that dentist has met their capacity and is strictly limiting access to new patients at this time. Thus, patients seeking dental services in these areas must travel further to get dental services.

In general, recruiting healthcare providers into Rural America is an endless struggle for all Community Health Centers who spend hard earned and precious dollars in finding doctors and dentists willing to practice in relatively remote and isolated locations. In addition, according to the US Census Bureau, the estimated population in North Dakota has increased from 672,591 in 2010 to 699,628 in 2012. I believe North Dakota's healthcare needs are increasing at a faster rate than the available supply of healthcare providers and will result in further strain on our current healthcare provider base.

To recruit qualified dental providers, Community Health Centers must offer top dollars, along with excellent benefit packages and incentives just to capture the attention of potential dental providers. Although I do not believe Senate Bill 2354 will in itself solve the growing gap between the healthcare needs and North Dakota's ability to meet this need, I feel it is absolutely vital in giving nonprofit dental clinics greater ability to provide equitable incentives to recruit and retain qualified dentists.

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, this concludes my testimony in support of Senate Bill 2354. I thank you for your time, consideration and support of our efforts to meet the health care needs of North Dakota.

#7

Testimony
Senate Bill 2354
House Human Services Committee
March 12, 2013

Good morning Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Kathy Keiser, and I am the Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities in Bismarck. Our mission is "to improve the lives of children and their families." We own and operate the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile which provides oral health care to low-income and underserved children ages 0 through 21 in the western half of North Dakota. I am providing testimony in support of SB 2354 to provide an appropriation for dental loan repayment for public health clinics and nonpublic dental clinics.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile project contracts with Bridging the Dental Gap, Inc., a private non-profit organization in Bismarck, to provide the clinical dental services on the Care Mobile. We have one full time dentist working on the Care Mobile. In 2012 we served nearly 800 patients and provided nearly 2,000 appointments and 8,000 dental services. Bridging the Dental Gap needs more dentists not only to meet the need in their clinic, but also on the Care Mobile. With just one dentist working on the Care Mobile at the present time, we don't have any back-up. An additional dentist could also fill in and give our dentist some relief since we're travelling to a different site each week. Furthermore, the Care Mobile has two operatories; one is currently used by the dentist and one by the hygienist. If we had another dentist available, we could put two dentists on the Care Mobile at some of the sites with extremely high patient need and move the hygienist into the school with portable equipment. This would allow us to deliver almost twice the amount of restorative care and treat that many more children.

One of the challenges faced by Bridging the Dental Gap and other dental public health clinics is recruiting and retaining dentists in public health settings. Loan repayment would help attract and keep new providers in these clinics.

We urge your support of SB2354. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Handed
in #8*

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Family HealthCare Dental Clinic in Fargo, North Dakota. My name is Dr. Andrea Wilson and I have worked here since July of 2010. I am hoping that I can help you to see the importance of Senate Bill 2354.

I would like to respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 2354. This is a bill that designates state loan repayment to dentists working in one of the three non-profit, public health clinics in the State. I am currently a recipient of this loan repayment, and the amount of burden that this loan repayment has lifted is immeasurable. I truly enjoy working at Family HealthCare and serving its mission, but I do not know if I would have taken this job without loan repayment. Most private offices have the ability to offer substantially higher salaries than Community Health Centers do. While working as the Dental Director at Family HealthCare, the patients I see on daily basis are primarily uninsured, homeless, or Medicaid recipients. Without Family HealthCare and the dentists that work here, many of these patients would not have access to dental care.

It is very hard for Community Health Centers to recruit new dentists. Most of the people who want to work here are new graduates who are just getting some income while they set up a private office, or older dentists who are interested in working a few days a week. What we need are motivated dentists who want to work here for many years. In order to find dentists like this we must have added incentive. We cannot even come close to the salary that dentists can achieve in the private sector. Loan repayment is the only way to close the gap difference in this salary and allow dentists the ability to reduce their student debt.

I urge you and your fellow senators and representatives to consider this bill and hopefully you can understand how important it is in bringing quality care to the underserved populations in our State.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Wilson, DMD

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Lee, Judy E.

From: Sandra Holbrook <slholbrook@cableone.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 8:55 AM
To: Hofstad, Curt L.; Fehr, Alan; Mooney, Gail; Lee, Judy E.; Larsen, Oley L.; Axness, Tyler
Subject: SB2354

Senators and Representatives,

I am writing as a board member Family HealthCare in Fargo, a community health center (CHC), to ask your support for the Senate version of the legislation to fund a dental loan repayment program (SB2354). This program is vitally important to help our clinic - and other CHCs in our state - attract and retain dentists to serve those who often have no other access to dental care. Funding for three dentists (rather than two) will increase the impact and effectiveness of this legislation and provide critical support for CHCs like ours to continue improving the health of our communities and the patients we serve

I urge you to adopt the Senate version of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra Holbrook
Board Member
Family HealthCare, Fargo

Lee, Judy E.

From: Larry Shireley <larry@communityhealthcare.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:36 AM
To: Lee, Judy E.
Subject: SB 2354, Dental Loan Repayment


Senator Lee,

On behalf of the North Dakota community health centers I would like to thank you for your support of SB 2354 for Dental Loan Repayment. I know that you are aware of the valuable services that community health centers and Bridging the Gap Dental Clinic in Bismarck provide for the underserved; often these clinics provide the only dental care option for many people. As a bill sponsor you are aware that these clinics often experience difficulties recruiting dentists due to the salaries they are able to pay. This dental loan repayment incentive is often the difference between a dentist signing on to work at one of these nonprofit clinics.

Currently the community health centers anticipate a need for 4 additional dentists within the upcoming biennium. Therefore, it is vitally important for the reinstatement of the appropriation to \$180,000 as the bill was originally passed in the Senate.

Again, thanks so much for your support and leadership.



Larry A. Shireley, MS, MPH
Director of Policy and Community Planning
(701) 751-0619 Cell: (701) 426-4545
Fax: (701) 221-0615
larry@communityhealthcare.net
 [CHAD Facebook](#)

NDLA, S HMS - Dvorak, Kirsten

From: Lee, Judy E.
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 5:06 PM
To: NDLA, S HMS - Dvorak, Kirsten; NDLA, Intern 02 - Myles, Bethany
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 2354
Attachments: Dr Korsmo.docx; Dr. Nord.docx; Dr. Wilson.doc

Please make copies of the message and each attachment for each conferee on 2354.

Senator Judy Lee
1822 Brentwood Court
West Fargo, ND 58078
home phone: 701-282-6512
e-mail: jlee@nd.gov

From: Marcia Olson [<mailto:dentalgap@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 5:01 PM
To: Lee, Judy E.; Hofstad, Curt L.; Fehr, Alan; Mooney, Gail; Larsen, Oley L.; Axness, Tyler
Subject: Senate Bill 2354

I have listed the information about each of the non-profits as requested. All of the executives believe that the Dental Student Loan repayment is the most viable incentive to attract dentists to work in the non-profit clinics. While not all of the dentists would be able to be covered, at least some would have this opportunity and it would prove to be a reason for at least a 3 year retention period. There is fairly high turnover in the clinics. We would not like to see this diluted and have the same amount of funds split by more dentists. We believe that the \$20,000 per year is best. Currently none of the clinics qualify for federal loan repayment programs as the HPSA scores are not high enough.

Each of these clinics sees from 25% - 40% Medicaid patients.

We have also included three letters from 3 dentists who verify the need for the loan repayment and the high amount of debt that dentists incur during their education.

Over the past year, approximately 60 dentists have applied for licensure in the state. Obviously not all of them have returned to North Dakota to practice.

3 Community Health Centers provide dental services (Valley (Grand Forks), Fargo and Northland (Turtle Lake and Rolette))

Valley:

In 2012 provided dental services for approximately 3200 patients – a 7% increase from 2011
3 Dentists are employed.

None have Dental Loan Repayment

For next biennium – anticipate hiring 1 dentist. There will be approximately 5 applicants and all will be interested in the position and all will qualify for dental loan repayment

Fargo:

2012 provided dental services for 9000 patients

5 dentists employed

1 Dental Loan Repayment from 2009-2011 --- none current – no longer employed

Previously one dentist worked 3 years past their initial 3 year obligation

For next biennium – anticipate hiring 3 dentists. Will have approximately 8 applicants and 4 will be interested and will qualify for loan repayment

This year had 3 openings with 15 applicants. 12 qualified for dental loan repayment.

Northland (Turtle Lake/Rolette):

2012 -- 5000 dental visits (appointments)

Currently only have 1 dentist (seeking an additional dentist – had 2 in 2012)

Dental Loan Repayment from 2009 – 2011 (that dentist now gone to private practice)

For next biennium – anticipate hiring 2 additional dentists. Project will have 6 applicants and all 6 will be qualified for loan repayment.

Additional Dental clinics or non-profits providing dental services:

Bridging the Dental Gap -- Bismarck:

2012 -- 5500 dental visits (appointments) and 500 Nursing Home Appts = 6000

2 dentists on staff

Dental Loan Repayment 2009 – 2011 (that dentist now gone into private practice)

For next biennium -- anticipate hiring 2 additional dentists. Will have 5 applicants and 4 qualify for loan repayment

Ronald McDonald Caremobile

2012 - 796 children - 1822 dental visits – 7973 services

1 dentist on staff

No loan repayment

For next biennium – anticipate hiring 1 dentist. Will have 2 applicants and 1 will qualify for loan repayment

Should additional information be required, please let us know.

**Marcia Olson
Executive Director**

Bridging the Dental Gap

1223 So 12th St Ste 1

Bismarck ND 58504

701-221-0518

Senate Bill 2354

April 23, 2013

Dental Salaries:

The Clinics in GF and Fargo have a starting salary of \$90,000 - \$130,000 depending on experience so most often starting is at \$100,000. Bridging the Dental Gap is \$100,000 - \$120,000 also depending on experience.

Private practice usually has a base pay PLUS a production percentage incentive. The base for starting is a wide range of \$120,000 to \$140,000 plus that incentive. The production incentive runs about 35%. It kicks in AFTER the dentist has earned his salary base in production. Additional benefit packages in private practice are more extensive (i.e. family health insurance coverage vs single coverage)

Dental Loans:

Most dental student loans are \$200,000 to \$400,000. Loan payments are \$1500 to \$3000 per month.

April 19, 2013

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2354

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 1242 of the Senate Journal and page 1318 of the House Journal and that Senate Bill No. 2354 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after the first "to" insert "amend and reenact sections 43-28.1-01, 43-28.1-01.1, and 43-28.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to loan repayment programs for dentists; and to"

Page 1, after line 3, insert:

"SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 43-28.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-28.1-01. Loan repayment program - Dentists - Maximum amount of funds.

Each year the state health council shall select from a pool of applicants ~~no more than three dentists who shall provide dental services to communities in this state. The dentists~~ are eligible to receive funds for the repayment of their education loans. The funds, which are payable over a four-year period, may not exceed eighty thousand dollars per applicant. ~~If the~~The state health council ~~accepts~~may accept any gifts, grants, or donations ~~under this chapter, the council may select additional dentists for participation in the loan repayment program under~~for purposes of this chapter.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 43-28.1-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-28.1-01.1. Loan repayment program for dentists in public health and nonprofit dental clinics.

1. If funds have been appropriated specifically for loan repayment to dentists who practice in a public health setting or a nonprofit dental clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule to bill patients, during the first year of each biennium the health council shall select from a pool of applicants ~~no more than three dentists who provide or will provide dental services in a public health clinic or nonprofit dental clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule to bill patients.~~ A dentist who receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to repay the dentist's educational loans. The maximum grant award is sixty thousand dollars per recipient which is paid to the recipient over a two-year period.
2. Unless otherwise provided under this section, sections 43-28.1-02 and 43-28.1-04, subsections 1, 2, and 3 of section 43-28.1-03, and sections 43-28.1-05, 43-28.1-06, 43-28.1-07, 43-28.1-08, and 43-28.1-09 apply to this grant.
3. A recipient who receives a grant under this section shall serve three years as a full-time practicing dentist in the public health setting or a nonprofit clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule to bill patients and must be paid the grant funds during the first two years of this service.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 43-28.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-28.1-09. Gifts, grants, and donations - Continuing appropriation.

The state health council may accept any conditional or unconditional gift, grant, or donation for the purpose of providing funds for the repayment of dentists' educational loans. ~~If any entity desires to provide funds to the council to allow an expansion of the program beyond the three dentists contemplated by this chapter, the entity shall commit to fund fully the expansion for a period of four years.~~ The council may contract with any public or private entity and may expend any moneys available to the council to obtain matching funds for the purposes of this chapter. All money received as gifts, grants, or donations under this section is appropriated as a continuing appropriation to the state health council for the purpose of providing funds for the repayment of additional dentists' educational loans."

Renumber accordingly

April 19, 2013

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2354

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 1242 of the Senate Journal and page 1318 of the House Journal and that Senate Bill No. 2354 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after the first "to" insert "create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to repayment notes from certain participants in professional student exchange programs; to provide for a continuing appropriation; and to"

Page 1, after line 3, insert:

"**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Professional student exchange programs - Notes - Repayment - Continuing appropriation.

1. Before the state board of higher education makes a payment to an out-of-state institution on behalf of an individual participating in a professional student exchange program in dentistry, that individual must sign a note with the Bank of North Dakota in an amount equal to that by which the individual's tuition is reduced as a result of a contract between the institution and the board.
2. If the individual who signed the note in accordance with subsection 1 is not practicing dentistry in this state thirty-six months after the individual's date of graduation, the individual shall begin repaying the note, together with interest accruing from the date of signing, at the rate per annum established by the Bank of North Dakota.
3. If the individual who signed the note in accordance with subsection 1 elects to practice dentistry in this state, or if the individual begins to practice in this state at any time between the individual's graduation and thirty-six months thereafter, the board shall reduce the amount of the note by one-third for each full year the individual serves in that capacity. If an individual ceases to practice dentistry in this state before the note is waived in its entirety, the individual shall repay the remaining portion of the note, together with interest accruing at the rate per annum established by the Bank of North Dakota, from the date that the individual ceased such practice.
4. If the individual who signed the note in accordance with subsection 1 departs before graduation from a program in dentistry, the individual shall begin repaying the note, at the time of departure, together with interest accruing from the date of signing, at the rate per annum established by the Bank of North Dakota.
5. The state board of higher education shall determine all other terms applicable to the time and manner in which the notes must be repaid.

6. The board shall waive any repayment of a note otherwise due under this section, for the period of time the individual who signed the note is:
 - a. Pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral studies; or
 - b. Called to active duty as a member of the armed forces.
7. This section is applicable only to individuals entering a professional student exchange program in dentistry after June 30, 2013.
8. All moneys repaid in accordance with this section must be deposited in a special fund in the state treasury known as the dentists' student exchange fund. All moneys in the fund are appropriated on a continuing basis to the state department of health for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the dentists' loan repayment program, as set forth in chapter 43-28.1."

Renumber accordingly