



**NORTH DAKOTA
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**HEALTH CARE REFORM REVIEW COMMITTEE
ND Legislative Council
October 6, 2011**

Chairman Keiser and Committee Members, I'm Courtney Koebele and I serve the North Dakota Medical Association as executive director. NDMA is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents and medical students. On behalf of NDMA I appreciate the opportunity to provide information regarding health benefit exchanges.

I have reviewed the most recent draft of the North Dakota Health benefit exchange legislation. There are 5 board members, and no specific provision for physician membership in the governance structure.

We have the following suggestions:

1. Exchanges will be best served with patients and practicing physicians in their governance structures. Giving physicians a voice in the establishment and operation of an exchange will lead to a more positive reception in the physician community and will help to identify problems with the exchanges, allowing them to be rectified as quickly as possible.
2. Therefore, NDMA requests that a North Dakota physician be named as one of the board members. The number of board members would have to be enlarged as well. An amendment is attached to my testimony.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide information on NDMA's view of health benefit exchanges. NDMA will continue to work with the committee and the ND Legislative Assembly to provide whatever information you need.

North Dakota Medical Association Amendment

Page 6, line 18, replace "five" with "six"

Page 6, line 22, replace "five" with "six"

Page 6, line 24, after "interests," insert "one of whom must be a physician licensed in North Dakota"