Testimony
Information Technology Committee
January 11, 2012
North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the Information Technology Committee. My name is Kirby Kruger, and I am the director of the Division of Disease Control for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to provide an update on the Department of Health's electronic disease reporting system, Maven, as of December 31, 2011.

The Maven system became operational January 1, 2010, with all but four of the components functioning. The product has performed to our expectations with only minor challenges so far.

Since my last update to this committee, all of the components have been finalized and accepted. We are in the process of completing our final ITD Large Project close-out report, which this committee should be receiving a copy of in the next couple of months.

The project is on budget, and the scope of the project has not changed since we started. The project has taken longer than expected, however.

Some of the lessons learned in the process include:
1. We underestimated the project timeline.
2. The initial staff member working on the project left early in the process, and new staff members had to be trained and brought up to date. This process took additional time. Ensuring depth in the number of staff familiar with a project will help avoid this in the future.
3. Future large projects will include a dedicated project manager, if feasible.
4. We felt it was beneficial not to rush and compromise the product just to meet established timelines.
5. By contractually tying specific deliverables with payment, we were able to stay on budget for the services delivered by the contractor.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.