



**House Human Services Committee**

**HB 1288**

**January 20, 2021**

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members, I am Courtney Koebele, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA supports SB 1288 and the provision of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) to Medicaid patients.

CGM helps patients monitor their blood sugar more closely by simplifying day-to-day management of Type 1 diabetes and reducing the number of blood glucose self-checks. CGM significantly reduces hemoglobin A1C, as well helps protect patients from having blood sugar become dangerously low. Better management of blood glucose monitoring through the use of CGMs is likely to significantly decrease Medicaid expenditures by reducing preventable hospitalizations.

As chair of the Services/Codes subcommittee of the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee, we were directed to evaluate requests for a number of currently ineligible Medicaid services, including CGM. To do this, we created a rubric which gives a score for each condition. The score reflected the number of people affected, importance in outcome/treatment of the disease, cost, as well as other considerations.

While the CGM request is more costly; thus, lowering its overall score - the subcommittee rated it higher in other areas, resulting in a score that led to the recommendation that Medicaid provide coverage of this device.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.