



House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
IN SUPPORT – SB 2253 – Long Term Care Insurance
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Chairman LeFor and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee- I am Josh Askvig, State Director at AARP North Dakota and I am speaking in support of the study on the long-term care insurance market as outlined in SB 2253.

AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization with more than 84,000 members in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower people to choose how they live as they age.

We appreciate this committee's work to dig into issue important to older North Dakotans and this need will continue to grow. Today our population age 50+ is almost 256,000 and 50% of those households are age 65 or older. Today in North Dakota over 9 counties have a mean age of over 50 and a number of others are right on their heels.

North Dakotans need options to help pay for the long-term services and supports they may need, including to help them live in their homes and communities. As an organization with millions of members nationwide that helps people 50 + have independence, choice and control, we have a strong interest in ensuring that consumers have the information necessary to make an informed and educated choice when it comes to selecting a long-term care insurance policy that best meets their needs.

In recent years, long term care insurance policies have become more comprehensive; many insurers now cover home health care, adult day services, assisted-living, personal care and respite care. However, despite these improvements, the products have limited potential reach due to the high cost and complexity of long-term care insurance. Consumers need objective information to help them determine exactly what a particular policy provides so they may use these details to make an educated decision about purchasing private long-term care insurance-based on their financial circumstances, age, living situation and health status.

The study called for in SB 2253 will help the state better understand the current market, benefits of current products and how consumers are impacted. Additionally, it will help consumers understand what options they may have and how the state can best facilitate the information for them to make beneficial choices.

I want to thank the committee for their time and encourage a favorable recommendation on SB 2253 for a study on the long-term care insurance market.