



Senate Appropriations Committee
IN SUPPORT – SB 2345 – State Fiscal Recovery Appropriations
November 8, 2021
Janelle Moos, AARP North Dakota
jmoos@aarp.org
(701) 355-3641

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am Janelle Moos, Associate State Director of Advocacy at AARP North Dakota. I'm offering testimony in favor of SB 2345.

AARP North Dakota, on behalf of our 83,000 members, would like to thank you for your efforts and leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that while the worst of this unprecedented time may be behind us, many issues which disproportionately impact older North Dakotans have surfaced during the pandemic that require continued action from our state. As you prepare to budget and appropriate funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, AARP North Dakota encourages you to address these challenges by strengthening North Dakota's long-term care services and supports and housing.

Long-Term Care Services and Supports

On May 13, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued [guidance](#) to states on the temporary enhanced funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) under the American Rescue Plan Act. The State Medicaid Director Letter ([SMDL #21-003](#)) provides guidance to states regarding the implementation of the temporary increase to North Dakota's federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) of 10 percentage points for certain Medicaid HCBS expenditures under the ARP Act.

This temporary FMAP increase is available to states beginning April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022, and the guidance provides that state funds freed up (i.e., state funds equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP) can be used through March 31, 2024 to improve HCBS in the state (specifically to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS). Examples include increasing access to HCBS for Medicaid beneficiaries, protecting the HCBS workforce, safeguarding the financial stability for HCBS providers, and accelerating meaningful reform of long-term services and supports.

Given a vast majority of North Dakota want to live independently in their homes and communities, AARP urges North Dakota to take advantage of this unique opportunity to use this increased funding to supplement existing state HCBS efforts.

We would like to thank you again for your service to our state and for your leadership during these challenging times. AARP North Dakota is committed to working with you to make these critical improvements in our state. If you have questions or wish to discuss these items further, please contact me at jmoos@arp.org or 701.355.3641.

Thank you.