

March 8, 2021

Dear Madam Chairman and Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Jared Broadway and I am a board certified neurosurgeon practicing in Fargo. As I stated in my email this weekend, I founded Northern Neurosurgery and Spine in Fargo in January 2020 which is a spine-focused surgical practice.

I would ask for your support for HB 1465 as I believe that patients should be able to choose the provider that best suits their needs based on factors that fall outside of their insurance network, including skill set, reputation, cost of care and geographic location.

HB 1465 allows patients and their families to choose their preferred health care provider, gain access to additional local options for care and will ensure opportunities for patients to get around healthcare bottlenecks and doctor shortages.

Timely access to a spinal surgeon is critical to prevent neurological decline and unnecessary suffering. This is even true of a (now) spinal surgeon. When I was 20 years old, I suffered a herniated disc in my lumbar spine resulting in severe and limiting left leg pain. I'm from a medium size town in Arkansas which, at the time, had four neurosurgeons in active practice. The wait to see a surgeon was over 3 months which prompted me to seek care over an hour away in Memphis, Tennessee. I happened to be lucky enough from an insurance and demographic perspective to have that option, but many patients are not so fortunate.

North Dakota is similar to Arkansas in that there is not an abundance of Neurosurgeons given the rural nature of the state. Allowing patients to choose their provider will allow for better access and, ultimately, better care.

I ask the committee for a DO PASS vote on House Bill 1465.

Respectfully,

S. Jared Broadway, MD, FAANS