



TESTIMONY TO:
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
67TH NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Senate Bill 2085

Chairman Senator Judy Lee and Committee Members,

I am Paula Moch, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Legislative Liaison for the North Dakota Nurse Practitioner Association (NDNPA). This is my written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2058 relating to Medicaid waivers-In home services and Medical Assistance-Services provided by physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses.

NDNPA supports that the medical assistance program must recognize advance practice registered nurses (APRNS) as primary care providers as written in lines 13-20 as written. APRN's already provide primary care for residents of North Dakota and are recognized by their patients as primary care providers. The state medical assistance program not recognizing APRNS as primary care providers when they have full practice authority, provides barriers to access to care in rural areas where barriers need not exist. An example of one of these barriers is when a primary care provider's signature is needed for a medical assistance patient. This patient, who lives in a rural area where the only care provided is by an APRN, must travel 100 miles to obtain that "in person signature". These barriers often result in delays in care, when often it is just a signature that is needed. This is just one example of the difficulties that are faced when the APRN is not recognized as a primary care provider by the state medical assistance program.

This concludes my written testimony and I am happy to answer any questions in writing or via telephone at your convenience.

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