

January 25, 2021

My name is Dr. Anne Keating, M.D. I am an ophthalmologist practicing in Fargo, North Dakota. I have been in practice for the past 10 years with the first 8 years being an employee at Essentia Health in Fargo. The past two years I have been in private practice at Eye Consultants of North Dakota. We have wanted to provide care for Medicaid patients. However, many of them require an interpreter and I was not aware that the interpreter services were not covered by Medicaid and thus we realized when we started receiving the bills for the interpreter services that we were actually paying significantly more to the interpreter than we were reimbursed to see the patient. This is not sustainable for our small business and yet we are one of the few that provides care for Medicaid patients as an ophthalmologist in private practice. Neither Sanford nor Essentia has a cornea specialist and I am the only cornea specialist in Fargo that accepts Medicaid. I support bill SB2205.