

Testimony on SB 2224
Senator Dick Dever
January 25, 2021
Senate Human Services Committee

Madam Chair, members of the Committee, I am Dick Dever, Senator from District 32, here in Bismarck.

SB 2224 simply provides that Metabolic Supplements be covered through Medicaid. I know that the Supplements are necessary and expensive. for children who need them. This bill comes at the recommendation of the Medicaid Advisory Council.

My first session in the Legislature was in 2001. I recall one morning as I walked down the hall on the ground floor, I was approached by a Mother with three small children. She educated me on metabolic diseases and the need for very expensive, but necessary, food. The bill was Senate Bill 2239. Senator Judy Lee was one of the co-sponsors. It passed unanimously in both chambers.

Later in the session, we had the bill that required that any insurance mandate be applied to the PERS plan for the first two years. The bill failed by one vote. I voted no. Senator Gary Nelson asked me why and asked me if I would change my vote on reconsideration. I told him about that Mother and that I didn't think that they should have to wait two years for something so critical to their health. He told me we can make exceptions as they come up. We do as priorities come up.

If I was to make any pretense at having any expertise on this issue, I would stand in stark contrast to those who will follow who actually do.

I am happy to respond to any questions, but I am prepared only to encourage your favorable consideration of the bill.