

Testimony
Senate Bill 2222 – Department of Human Services
Senate Industry, Business, and Labor Committee
Senator Klein, Chair
January 26, 2021

Chair Klein, members of the Senate Industry, Business, and Labor Committee, I am Caprice Knapp, Director of the Medical Services Division, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to offer neutral comments on Senate Bill 2222.

This bill proposes policies that would be put in place if the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is ruled unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. The bill includes language on Medicaid expansion and what would occur if the ACA were vacated.

Medical Services is concerned that there are numerous policy decisions that would need to be made including if the legislature would want to continue to cover the expanded population, the federal poverty level that would be covered, what benefits would be provided, etc.

Medical Services also notes that the current existing authority we have available to cover the expansion population would be an 1115 waiver. Currently, this waiver process is complex, time consuming, and resource intensive. It requires demonstration of budget neutrality and a longitudinal independent evaluation. Funds would be needed for procurement of actuarial services, an independent evaluator, and additional DHS staff to write and oversee the 1115 waiver.

This concludes my comments. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.