

Support for SB 2012

Dave Marion- Prairie Recovery Center

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Chairman Nelson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dave Marion and work for the Prairie Recovery Center located southwest of Mandan near Raleigh ND. The Prairie Recovery Center serves men and women throughout ND that suffer with addiction and dual diagnosis mental health conditions in a short-term residential setting in rural ND. The Prairie Recovery Center, as a committed home-grown ND resource, has made it its mission to answer the call of the severe crisis that ND is facing with its growing needs in substance use disorders and mental health. First, we want to offer up support for SB 2012 and the removal of the moratorium relating to the SUD voucher which is supported by the Dept. of Human Services and Behavioral Health Division. Resources like the continuation of Medicaid Expansion and potential inflationary increases are a critical tool to a functioning Behavioral Health system. Behavioral Health might be the number one public health talking point in America. Incidence rates are up, acuity is up, and drug overdoses are up. In-patient behavioral health is delivered in the community in short-term, acute care settings, this is apparent for persons with mental health and substance use disorders. It would not be in the best interest of the people that need the lifesaving services to limit services or resources when the state can take positive steps to address the needs clearly outlined by the Dept of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division and Shulte Report. Always taking steps to eliminate barriers for people to access care and support a full continuum of care to tackle this growing epidemic should be at the front of every conversation. It will be important to support and use our local providers that want to do the work and is in the best interest of people and families, which serves as the cornerstone to our ND communities. You have providers that want to do the work, so continue to let them roll up their sleeves and do the work. Thank you for your time and consideration and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Dave Marion