

MHA Recovery Services

GOOD ROAD RECOVERY CENTER

1308 Elbowoods Lane, Bismarck, ND 58503



Testimony
House Bill No. 1261
House Human Services Committee
January 16th 2023

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Dr. Joy Froelich, and I am the Executive Director and Medical Director of Good Road Recovery Center. I am here today representing Chairman Mark Fox on behalf of the MHA Nation to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1261.

The MHA Nation is in full support of this bill along with swift implementation of the IMD waiver to help fight the war on substance abuse and overdose death.

The December 2022 CDC reports in both 2020 and 2021, rates were highest for non-Hispanic American Indians or Alaska Native (AIAN) people (42.5 per 100,000 and 56.6, respectively), and the lowest for non-Hispanic Asian people (4.6 and 4.7, respectively).

Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) and non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native people experienced the largest percentage increases in drug overdose death rates from 2020 through 2021, with rates increasing 47% (13.7 to 20.1 and 33% (42.5 to 56.6), respectively).

Link to CDC data:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db457.pdf>

The MHA Nation is committed to helping enrolled members achieve and maintain long term sobriety. The war on substance abuse is a priority and the MHA Nation has committed resources and infrastructure, but the IMD rule prevents residential treatment services to most members that are in desperate need of residential substance abuse treatment. Most members must leave their home, culture, and family to receive residential services outside of North Dakota.

The MHA Nation has built and utilizes Good Road Recovery Center, a tribally owned and operated treatment facility located in Bismarck ND. The IMD rule limits the bed capacity of this facility to 16 residential clients. Currently MHA Nation has 48 clients in residential treatment outside of Good Road Recovery Center and 35 of these clients are in residential treatment outside of the state of North Dakota due to the limitation of available beds.

Chairman Weisz and members of this committee, the MHA Nation supports House Bill No. 1261 and requests implementation by 2024 not only to help our Nation but to help the epidemic also occurring across the great state of North Dakota.

Chairman Weisz and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your attention to the great need of House Bill No. 1261.

I would be happy to answer any questions and again thank you,

Joy Froelich MD
Executive Director/Medical Director
MHA Recovery Services
Good Road Recovery Center
W: 701-751-2887
C: 573-489-6856
jfroelich@goodroadrecovery.com