

**Testimony on Amending Geropsychiatric Facilities**  
**House Human Services Committee**  
**March 5, 2025**  
**Senate Bill 2081**

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Nikki Wegner, President of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association. Our association represents North Dakota's three geropsychiatric skilled nursing facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the amended Senate Bill 2081. The proposed amendment updates Section 50-24.4-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, modernizing outdated language to reflect current practices. It clarifies that individuals do not need to be admitted to the State Hospital before being considered for a geropsychiatric facility, while maintaining the practice of prioritizing State Hospital referrals when openings are available. The amendment also refines the admission process, ensuring individuals require both skilled nursing and psychiatric services. These updates support geropsychiatric facilities in better serving those most in need while fulfilling their specialized role.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.

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