

**Testimony on Amending Behavioral Health Bed Management  
Reporting Requirements for Geropsychiatric Facilities  
House Human Services Committee  
March 12, 2025  
Senate Bill 2113**

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Amy Kreidt, and I am the administrator at St. Luke's Home in Dickinson. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2113, specifically regarding the amendment starting on page 30 of the bill, section 25. This amendment introduces changes to the North Dakota Century Code 50-06-41.3 to improve reporting requirements within the Behavioral Health Bed Management System. We believe it is essential to include this amendment for our facility as well as other geropsychiatric skilled nursing facilities.

Our facility has been providing psychiatric services since 2018. Below is an overview of our activity and resident demographics for 2024:

- **Resident Movements in 2024:**
  - 1 resident transitioned to a different facility
  - 2 residents passed away
  - 2 residents moved to our regular nursing home
- **Total Residents Served:** 25 residents, with an average length of stay of **994 days**
- **Current Census:**
  - **Residents:** 19 (Capacity: 20)
  - **Gender:** 6 females and 13 males
  - **Age:**
    - Average age: 67
    - Youngest resident: 32
    - Oldest resident: 87
- **Resident Origins:**
  - Residents come from **9 different counties** in North Dakota
  - Most residents are admitted from the State Hospital, with some exceptions from the VA Hospital or medical centers around the state

As a geropsychiatric care provider, I see firsthand the unique challenges we face. Our facility operates at near full capacity year-round, with very few openings, most of which are pre-planned. The current daily reporting requirement for the Behavioral Health Bed

Management System creates significant administrative burdens that don't reflect our operational reality. For example, my staff have to set an alarm or calendar notification each day, including weekends to log in and update our census. This is an excessive requirement and unnecessary cost when our census does not change very often.

We are grateful for the collaboration between the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and the Senate for the amendment in section 25 that reads, "Geropsychiatric facilities shall participate in and report weekly and within forty - eight hours of a bed becoming available." This change would help us focus our resources where they are needed most: providing high-quality, specialized care to our residents.

Thank you for considering this important, proposed amendment.

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