



**House Human Services Committee
SB 2171 Testimony
March 5, 2025
Representative Matthew Ruby, Chair**

Good morning, Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Human Services Committee. I am Carlotta McCleary, Executive Director of Mental Health America of North Dakota and Executive Director of the North Dakota Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Today I speak on behalf of the Mental Health Advocacy Network (MHAN). MHAN advocates for a consumer/family driven mental health system of care that provides an array of service choices that are timely, responsive and effective. Our vision is for every North Dakotan to have access to the right service—whether it be preventative, treatment, or recovery; at the right time—when the service is needed; and at the right place—as near his or her home as possible. MHAN is testifying in opposition to SB 2171. MHAN is concerned about increasing the time at which an individual admitted would receive an evaluation to determine if they meet emergency commitment standards. Such changes are not patient-centered. Patient needs, especially in cases where commitments are involuntary, should be met swiftly. A patient's needs should trump that of infrastructure. MHAN is therefore against any increase in time for an individual to be evaluated for emergency commitment.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

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