

HB 1012
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Testimony on Nursing Facility Incentive Program
Senate Appropriations-Human Resources Division

March 18, 2025

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Good morning, Chairman Dever and members of the Committee. My name is Tim Kennedy, Administrator of Parkside Lutheran Home in Lisbon and Administrator of Four Seasons Healthcare Center in Forman. I am also Vice Chair of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA).

I was not planning to testify on this bill today, however, I feel compelled to voice my concerns and opinion regarding the idea and announcement of the ND Department of Human Services (DHS) to shift to a penalizing system and withholding from a facility not in the top tiers of the Nursing Facility Incentive Program (NFIP).

Earlier this year I testified at the interim committee hearing, chaired by Senator Davidson. During that testimony, I gave specific examples and details regarding the NFIP and its trickledown effect focusing on specific quality measures that had on improving other quality measures that didn't have a quality incentive attached directly to them but certainly improve the lives of the residents we serve.

I was a member of the original Payment Redesign Committee, originating in 2019. Through a long, challenging process, we developed a new payment model for the first time since 1987. This process was achieved through a collaborative effort and consensus of nursing facilities, NDLTCA and DHS.

The Quality Incentive Payment was always intended to be an added incentive to improve quality over and above covering facility costs and ensuring proper equitable payments to facilities.

I would ask that the language already quoted in the prior testimony be added thus ensuring ongoing collaboration and consensus on payment model changes through the joint efforts of NDLTCA members and DHS.

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