

Testimony on Medical Cost Transparency
Senate Human Services
March 18, 2025
House Bill 1594

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, my name is Nikki Wegner, President of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA). I represent 182 nursing, basic care, and assisted living facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on engrossed HB 1594. We have not taken a position on this bill, however, write in support of the language on pg. 1, lines 11-12 in the engrossed bill.

HB 1594 is about medical cost transparency requirements. Section 1 states that a health care facility means those licensed under Chapter 23-16 are subject to the requirements in HB 1594 except nursing and basic care facilities. Chapter 23-16 pertains to hospitals, nursing homes and basic care facilities, thus this legislation would pertain to all three groups without this exception. The provisions in HB 1594 pertain to hospitals, patients, inpatient and outpatient admissions and preferred provider arrangements, not to the issues impacting nursing homes and basic care facilities.

We are grateful to the sponsor of the bill and House Human Services for amending the original bill to exclude nursing facilities and basic care facilities. We respectfully ask that you keep that language intact on page 1, lines 11-12. Today basic care and nursing facility rates are publicly shared and posted on the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services website.

Thank you for your time. Please reach out with any questions you may have.

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