

2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1108

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE PIONEER ROOM, STATE CAPITOL

HB 1108
1/15/2025

Relating to interstate contracts for treatment of mental illness or a substance use disorder.

10:00 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Rios, Rohr

Members absent: Representative Kiefert

Discussion Topics:

- Punishment effectiveness
- Expanded treatments
- Access to care
- Risk reduction
- Freedom of ER space
- Rural care and access

10:01 a.m. Representative LaurieBeth Hager, District 21, introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #29121.

10:03 a.m. Senator Tim Mathern, District 11, testified in support and submitted testimony, #29205.

10:06 a.m. Ty Hegland, CEO of Prairie St. Johns, testified in support.

10:15 a.m. Madison Hanson, testified in support and submitted testimony, #29148.

10:17 a.m. Melissa Hauer, NDHA General Counsel, testified in support and submitted testimony, #29078.

10:19 a.m. Courtney Koebele, Executive Director of the Medical Association, testified in support.

10:19 a.m. Ty Hegland testified in support.

Additional written testimony:

Neil Roesler, Sanford Health, submitted testimony in support, #29178

Eniola Soetan, North Dakota Student Association, submitted testimony in support, #29135.

10:21 a.m. Chairman Ruby closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk



2025 House Bill 1108
House Human Services Committee
Representative Matthew Ruby, Chairman
January 15, 2025

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1108. We ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the bill because treatment for mental illness and substance use disorder can be difficult to provide across state lines for someone on probation or parole primarily due to legal complexities regarding jurisdiction, supervision requirements, and the need for close collaboration between the probation/parole officer in the originating state and the provider in the treating state. Those barriers sometimes mean that a patient who is committed, is on probation or parole, and resides close by in a bordering state, such as in Moorhead, Minnesota, who could receive treatment in a Fargo, North Dakota facility, must instead travel farther away to receive treatment in the patient's home state.

My understanding is that a similar law change is being pursued in Minnesota to allow for reciprocal treatment. It would allow an individual on probation and parole in North Dakota who is committed to a treatment program to receive that treatment in Minnesota.

This change to our state law would streamline mental health treatment across state lines for individuals on probation or parole. We support efforts to make such treatment easier, more accessible, and, in many cases in our border communities, closer to home and family.

In summary, we ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP
North Dakota Hospital Association

HB 1108

Good Morning Chairperson Ruby and Honored Members of the House Human Services Committee.

For the record, I am Representative LaurieBeth Hager serving District 21 in Fargo and West Fargo. My district is in the middle area of Fargo -- the historic origin of the city of Fargo. It is along Main Avenue from the Red River to a corner of West Fargo. We are just south of Downtown and just north of West Acres Mall. One unique aspect of D21 is the dozens of service agencies in it.

I bring to the Human Service Committee House Bill 1108. A bill to designate an interstate contract for the treatment of persons with substance use disorders or mental illness conditions.

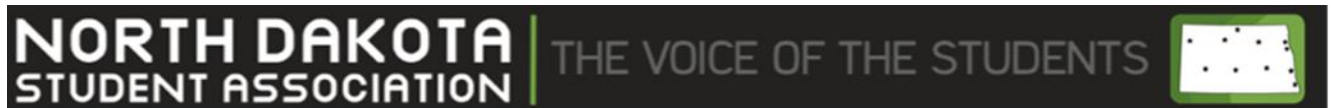
As one knows there has been an increase in the number of individuals requiring mental health or substance abuse treatment. The boundaries between states should not hinder the access to treatment nor should the financial responsibility questions be a barrier to a person receiving treatment on either side of a river or state boundary.

This legislation will establish interstate contracts parameters for the financial responsibilities when a person's treatment is provided by a facility in a bordering state-- a North Dakotan receiving treatment in Minnesota or a Minnesotan receiving treatment in North Dakota by establishing an interstate contract system. Similar legislation is also being introduced in the Minnesota Legislature.

This bill will help to assure that persons needing counseling or treatment will be provide it in a more streamlined, timely fashion and that they will have greater access to treatment options.

Thank you Chairperson Ruby and House Committee Members. I stand for questions and there are several healthcare professionals who will also be able to address the need for this legislation and answer questions.

Again Thank you Chairperson Ruby.

**HB 1108**

January 15, 2025

Eniola Soetan, North Dakota Student Association

Eniola.soetan@dickinsonstate.edu

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eniola Soetan, and I am a delegate of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to express my support for HB 1108.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota (NDUS). Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System, and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

The North Dakota Student Association is committed to acknowledging and alleviating the mental health challenges faced by postsecondary students across the NDUS which we have dedicated our organization to advocating for in [NDSA-01-2425](#): A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 25-27 Biennium , which supports “expanding mental health resources on all NDUS campuses”.

Additionally, in February of 2023, the NDSA passed [NDSA-19-2233](#): A Resolution in Support of a Counseling Compact, in which we outlined areas of concern such as the shortage of professionals trained to provide mental healthcare services to residents of North Dakota, as well as the long waiting times to visit with a counselor on NDUS campuses. Our support for HB

1108 acknowledges the challenges the state of North Dakota faces in regard to providing accessible and timely mental health services and responding to these challenges.

According to the state's summary of behavioral health updated in March 2023, 28.34% of adults reported binge alcohol use and 26.78% of adults reported tobacco use in the past 30 day substance use category [\[1\]](#), which was higher than the national averages of a 23.26% binge alcohol use and 21.28% tobacco use in the same past 30 day substance use category [\[1\]](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) data released in November 2023 revealed that in 2021, about 20.3% of the state's population has a substance use disorder, which ranked it at #5 among U.S states as well as D.C [\[2\]](#). Despite this, the number of people in substance use treatment in North Dakota in 2021 ranked lower at twelfth among U.S states as well as D.C. [\[2\]](#). The state's summary of behavioral health also reported that 18.95% of North Dakota adults who needed treatment for substance abuse did not receive it [\[1\]](#).

While there can be many barriers to receiving treatment, lack of access is a significant barrier, in a mostly rural state like North Dakota. Incidents such as drug deaths from opioids are reported to be much higher in rural populations, which is a factor in the fact that the unintentional death from injury rate is 50% higher in rural areas compared to urban areas [\[3\]](#). With 42.7% of the state's total population estimated to be living in a rural area [\[3\]](#), these are certainly statistics that the state should be concerned about, and numbers that we should commit to lowering.

The solution that HB 1108 calls upon evokes the power of community to tackle uniquely rural mental health and substance use challenges in such a way that the states involved do not have to overextend themselves; instead embracing partnership to better address residents' needs. Student wellness is essential to student success both inside and outside of the classroom, making it important to ensure that students have appropriate access to necessary wellness resources. In the NDUS, many of our students come from neighboring states to pursue a postsecondary education in North Dakota. Students not having to sacrifice access to mental health and substance abuse treatment while in North Dakota has the potential to create a positive impact on both student recruitment and retainment in the state of North Dakota.

To support the expansion of mental health resources on NDUS campuses and across the state of North Dakota, as well as increasing the quality of the NDUS student experience, I ask that this committee gives HB 1108 a DO PASS recommendation.

- [1]- https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/BH/BehavioralHealthDataBook_March2023_web.pdf
- [2]- <https://www.kxnet.com/news/top-stories/how-many-north-dakotans-are-receiving-substance-abuse-treatment/>
- [3]- https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/pct_rural_b/ND

Testimony on HB 1108

House Human Services Committee

January 15, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Ruby and members of the committee,

My name is Madison Hanson, and I am here today as a concerned citizen to express my support for HB 1108 which aims to help individuals access mental health treatment across state boundaries.

Timely and appropriate mental health care is crucial and impacts countless individuals across our state. Expanding access to care not only addresses immediate mental health needs but also promotes stability and supports people on their path to recovery.

HB 1108 presents a meaningful opportunity to improve the lives of those affected by mental illness. By promoting continuity of care and removing barriers, this bill ensures that individuals can access the treatment they need, regardless of where they live or where they may need to travel. As a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in North Dakota, I understand how important it is for people to receive the care they require when and where they need it.

In closing, I respectfully ask the committee to vote yes on HB 1108. It represents a step forward in improving access to mental health care and enhancing the well-being of individuals across our state.

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

Madison Hanson

Fargo, ND

NAMI ND Member



**House Human Services Committee
Representative Matt Ruby, Chair
January 15, 2025
HB 1108**

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Neil Roesler and I serve as vice president for legal services at Sanford Health Fargo. My testimony is in support of House Bill 1108. Sanford Health asks that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

The ability to enter into interstate services agreements is vital in border cities to ensure we can care for patients close to their homes, in a way that allows the patient to participate in the programs of their home state. One of the most difficult barriers we face is the limitation on eligibility for those patients who have a criminal probation or parole status. These patients are typically coming for help in a time of a crisis, where care and decisions need to be rendered quickly. Parole, and especially probation, statuses are not typically readily discernible, and our team of medical professionals and social workers are ill-equipped to immediately and accurately make these determinations. On multiple occasions, this has resulted in a discontinuation of services because these statuses have been learned after the patient is already going through the commitment process, and the patient is ineligible to continue receiving care under the interstate agreement. Removing these bases of ineligibility will simplify the intake and care processes, and ensure uninterrupted delivery of services to patients in a time of crisis using the laws and programs of their home state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Neil Roesler, Vice President
Legal Services
Sanford Health Fargo
Neil.Roesler@SanfordHealth.org
701-234-6904

January 15, 2025

House Human Service Committee

Chairman Ruby and Committee Members,

My name is Tim Mathern, Senator from District 11. I am a cosponsor of HB 1108 and have a historical connection to the North Dakota Century Code noted here. Some 30 years ago Republican Senator Kevin Goodno of Minnesota and I of North Dakota submitted legislation in our states to permit easier transfer of behavioral health patients as we had such facilities in our bordering cities of Moorhead and Fargo. HB 1108 builds on that original legislation. I believe others are here to testify so my comments are brief.

Overview of HB 1108

This bill proposes a change that is primarily noted on page 2 line 7, the change would permit the same cross border treatment options for persons on probation or parole that is available for other citizens.

Why is this bill needed

The bill is needed in that our law enforcement and corrections communities have become very engaged in advocating that persons get treatment. We know now that simple punishment for offenses or showing up for check ins without treatment only lands people back into prison. It also needed as our treatment facilities are not adequate but if we share facilities among our states more can get the treatment. Thirdly the bill has safeguards by requiring interstate agreements. The bill was drafted by Jonathon Alm of the NDDHHS.

I ask you for a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1108.

Thank you.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE PIONEER ROOM, STATE CAPITOL

HB 1108
1/15/2025

Relating to interstate contracts for treatment of mental illness or a substance use disorder.

2:48 Chairman Ruby called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

2:48 p.m. Jonathon Alm testified in favor.

2:49 p.m. Vice Chairman Frelich moved a Do Pass

2:49 p.m. Representative Rios seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

2:49 p.m. Motion passed 13-0-0 -Representative Rios will carry the bill.

2:50 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1108 ([25.0751.01000](#))

Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1108 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1108

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1108
2/10/2025

Relating to interstate contracts for treatment of mental illness or a substance use disorder; and to declare an emergency.

10:34 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Jurisdiction
- Patient denials
- Funding agreements

10:35 a.m. Senator Mathern introduced the bill and submitted testimony #36656.

10:40 a.m. Brittney Blake, Corporate Counsel for Altru Health System, testified in favor.

10:43 a.m. Donna Thronson, Director of Communications at North Dakota Medical Association, testified in favor.

10:44 a.m. Melissa Hauer, General Counsel of ND Hospital Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #36376.

10:48 a.m. Senator Roers moved Do Pass.

10:48 a.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passes 6-0-0.

Senator Van Oosting will carry the bill

Additional written testimony:

Neil Roesler, Vice President for Legal Services at Sanford Health Fargo, submitted testimony in favor #36415.

Madison Hanson submitted testimony in favor #36488.

Representative LaurieBeth Hager submitted testimony in favor #36492.

Sammi Weber, President of ND Student Association, submitted testimony #36517.

10:50 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1108 ([25.0751.01000](#))

Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1108 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



2025 House Bill 1108
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
February 10, 2025

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1108. We ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the bill because treatment for mental illness and substance use disorder can be difficult to provide across state lines for someone on probation or parole primarily due to legal complexities regarding jurisdiction, supervision requirements, and the need for close collaboration between the probation/parole officer in the originating state and the provider in the treating state. Those barriers sometimes mean that a patient who is committed, is on probation or parole, and resides close by in a bordering state, such as in Moorhead, Minnesota, who could receive treatment in a Fargo, North Dakota facility, must instead travel farther away to receive treatment in the patient's home state.

My understanding is that a similar law change is being pursued in Minnesota to allow for reciprocal treatment. It would allow an individual on probation and parole in North Dakota who is committed to a treatment program to receive that treatment in Minnesota.

This change to our state law would streamline mental health treatment across state lines for individuals on probation or parole. We support efforts to make such treatment easier, more accessible, and, in many cases in our border communities, closer to home and family.

In summary, we ask that you give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP
North Dakota Hospital Association



**Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chair
February 10, 2025
HB 1108**

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Neil Roesler and I serve as vice president for legal services at Sanford Health Fargo. My testimony is in support of House Bill 1108. Sanford Health asks that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

The ability to enter into interstate services agreements is vital in border cities to ensure we can care for patients close to their homes, in a way that allows the patient to participate in the programs of their home state. One of the most difficult barriers we face is the limitation on eligibility for those patients who have a criminal probation or parole status. These patients are typically coming for help in a time of a crisis, where care and decisions need to be rendered quickly. Parole, and especially probation, statuses are not typically readily discernible, and our team of medical professionals and social workers are ill-equipped to immediately and accurately make these determinations. On multiple occasions, this has resulted in a discontinuation of services because these statuses have been learned after the patient is already going through the commitment process, and the patient is ineligible to continue receiving care under the interstate agreement. Removing these bases of ineligibility will simplify the intake and care processes, and ensure uninterrupted delivery of services to patients in a time of crisis using the laws and programs of their home state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Neil Roesler, Vice President
Legal Services
Sanford Health Fargo
Neil.Roesler@SanfordHealth.org
701-234-6904

Testimony on HB 1108

Senate Human Services Committee

February 10th, 2025

Good morning, Chairwoman Lee and members of the committee,

My name is Madison Hanson, and I speak today as a concerned citizen to voice my strong support for HB 1108, a bill designed to expand access to mental health treatment across state lines.

Mental health care should be available when and where people need it. Delays in accessing treatment can have significant consequences, impacting not only individuals but also families and communities. By supporting access to care across state boundaries, HB 1108 removes unnecessary barriers and ensures that individuals receive timely, consistent support.

This bill represents an important step in strengthening our mental health system. When people can access treatment without geographic limitations, they are better positioned to maintain stability, continue recovery, and lead healthier lives. As a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) North Dakota, I understand the importance of uninterrupted access to care.

I respectfully ask the committee to vote yes on HB 1108. Expanding access to mental health treatment is not only beneficial, it is necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madison Hanson
Fargo, ND
NAMI ND Member

HB 1108

Good Morning Chairperson Lee and Honored Members of the Senate Human Services Committee.

For the record, I am Representative LaurieBeth Hager serving District 21 in Fargo and West Fargo. My district is in the middle area of Fargo -- the historic origin of the city of Fargo. It is along Main Avenue from the Red River to a corner of West Fargo. We are just south of Downtown and just north of West Acres Mall. One unique aspect of D21 is the dozens of service agencies in it. I bring to the Human Service Committee House Bill 1108. A bill to designate an interstate contract for the treatment of persons with substance use disorders or mental illness conditions.

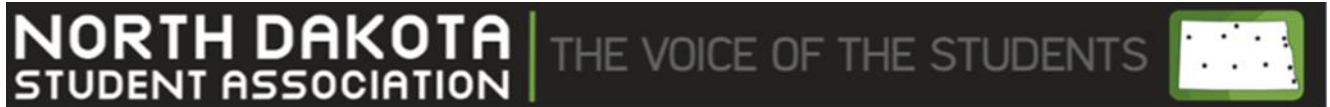
As one knows there has been an increase in the number of individuals requiring mental health or substance abuse treatment. The boundaries between states should not hinder the access to treatment nor should the financial responsibility questions be a barrier to a person receiving treatment on either side of a river or state boundary.

This legislation will establish interstate contracts parameters for the financial responsibilities when a person's treatment is provided by a facility in a bordering state-- a North Dakotan receiving treatment in Minnesota or a Minnesotan receiving treatment in North Dakota by establishing an interstate contract system. Similar legislation is also being introduced in the Minnesota Legislature.

This bill will help to assure that persons needing counseling or treatment will be provide it in a more streamlined, timely fashion and that they will have greater access to treatment options.

Thank you Chairperson Lee and Senate Committee Members. There are several healthcare professionals who will also be able to address the need for this legislation and answer questions.

Again Thank you Chairperson Lee.



HB 1108

February 10, 2025

Sammi Weber, North Dakota Student Association

Sammi.Weber@und.edu

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sammi Weber, and I am the President of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1108 on behalf of the NDSA.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System (NDUS), and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

The NDSA has been long committed to advocating for student mental health and well-being. On October 26, 2024, the NDSA General Assembly passed [NDSA-01-2425](#): A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 25-27 Biennium. One of our priorities outlined in the resolution states is "expanding mental health resources on NDUS campuses." A critical step toward achieving this goal is North Dakota's participation in the interstate contract for the treatment of mental illness or a substance use disorder. This agreement would ensure that students from bordering states attending college in North Dakota have greater access to off-campus mental health services.

Due to a nationwide shortage of mental health professionals, the NDUS has faced significant challenges in staffing counselors and psychologists. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor, the

occupation growth rate for psychologists from 2023 to 2033 is projected to be 7%, which is 3% higher than the average growth rate across all occupations (U.S. Bureau of Labor). As demand continues to outpace resources available, students experience longer waiting times for counseling appointments that fit their busy schedules—sometimes waiting weeks. Passing HB 1108 will provide students from bordering states with faster access to mental health care. Additionally, reducing the demand on campus will help students from non-bordering states receive care more quickly.

Ensuring and expanding access to mental health resources is essential for student success and well-being. With HB 1108, North Dakota will take a vital step toward addressing the growing need for mental health resources in the state. By contributing to student well-being, North Dakota fosters a stronger, healthier future for the state.

On behalf of the NDSA, I respectfully ask the committee for a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1108.

Reference

“Psychologists.” *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 29 Aug. 2024, www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm.

February 10, 2025

Senate Human Service Committee

Chairman Ruby and Committee Members,

My name is Tim Mathern, Senator from District 11. I am a cosponsor of HB 1108 and have a historical connection to the North Dakota Century Code noted here. Some 30 years ago Republican Senator Kevin Goodno of Minnesota and I of North Dakota submitted legislation in our states to permit easier transfer of behavioral health patients as we had such facilities in our bordering cities of Moorhead and Fargo. HB 1108 builds on that original legislation.

Overview of HB 1108

This bill proposes a change that is primarily noted on page 2 line 7, the change would permit the same cross border treatment options for people on probation or parole that is available for other citizens.

Why is this bill needed

The bill is needed in that our law enforcement and corrections communities have become very engaged in advocating that persons get treatment. We know now that simple punishment for offenses or showing up for check-ins without treatment only lands people back into prison.

The bill is also needed as our treatment facilities are not adequate but if we share facilities among our states more can get the treatment. On a pragmatic level, Moorhead offers medical detox not available in Fargo. Fargo offers hospitalization not available in Moorhead. There are similar situations around the entire border of our state.

Thirdly the bill has safeguards by requiring interstate agreements. The bill was drafted by Jonathon Alm of the NDDHHS. A similar bill has been introduced in the Minnesota legislature.

I ask you for a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1108.

Thank you.