

Testimony
Senate Bill 2096 – Department of Human Services
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
February 16, 2009

Chairman Weisz, members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Dr. Andrew McLean, the Medical Director of the One Center (North Dakota State Hospital and North Dakota Developmental Center) and Southeast Human Service Center. I am here today to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2096.

The bill before you pertains to intoxicated persons. The changes in the bill are simply to clarify the language pertaining to hospitalization. In the first part of the original statute, it is apparent that a peace officer has the authority to take an individual to a hospital for the purpose of detoxification, and that the medical staff may hold that person for that purpose. We are requesting a change in the latter part of the statute which implies authority of law enforcement to “place” (i.e., admit) a person in a hospital, whereas they actually have the authority to bring them to the hospital for the purpose of evaluation and subsequent determination by clinical staff.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions.