

Testimony
House Bill 1293 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
February 28, 2007

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Erik Elkins, Assistant Director for the Medical Services Division, Department of Human Services. I appear before you today to support House Bill number 1293.

The North Dakota Medicaid program had planned to reimburse additional practitioners for the topical application of fluoride varnish for children. These additional practitioners included physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and registered nurses (under the direct supervision of a physician, except in a Public Health Clinic). In September 2005, the Department of Human Services was notified of an opinion of the Attorney General's office indicating that North Dakota law does not allow licensed professionals, other than dentists and dental hygienists (under the supervision of a licensed dentist) to apply fluoride varnish.

North Dakota Medicaid recipients continue to experience difficulties accessing dental services. Because this bill would allow other practitioners: registered nurses, registered dental hygienists, registered dental assistants, physicians, physician assistants, or nurse practitioners to apply fluoride varnish, it would help ensure that children six months to ten years would have access to this very important, preventative service.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.