

Testimony
Engrossed Senate Bill 2047 – Department of Human Services
House Human Services
Representative Weisz, Chairman
March 4, 2015

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Director of the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (Division) of the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here today to support Senate Engrossed Bill 2047 and to provide information on the changes made by the Senate.

The term, 'qualified mental health professional' is used in only one section of North Dakota Century Code. This section is specific to psychiatric residential treatment centers (PRTF) for children. The term 'mental health professionals' is used in a variety of other century code chapters and includes a broader application. The similarity of these phrases has led to confusion.

In order to reduce the confusion between the two terms, Engrossed Senate Bill 2047 removes the term 'qualified mental health professional' and the Department of Human Services will adopt rules to clarify the professional qualifications necessary to provide services within a PRTF.

I am available to answer any questions.