

Testimony
Senate Bill 2115 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 10, 2017

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Maggie Anderson, Director of the Medical Services Division, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here in support of Senate Bill 2115 which was introduced at the request of the Department.

Senate Bill 2115 proposes to add members and to make clarifications to the Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force, which was originally established by the 2009 Legislative Assembly. The Task Force meets quarterly and examines early intervention and family support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders to help them remain in their homes and communities.

Specifically, Page 1, Lines 10 and 11 propose to replace “director of special education” to the “superintendent of public instruction”. This change creates more consistency with other designated members of the Task Force. During the drafting of this proposed legislation, the Department consulted with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and received her support for this change.

The changes proposed on Page 1, Lines 22 and 23 clarify that a member of the Task Force selected to represent licensed residential child care facilities should be one that is providing services to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder.

The changes proposed on Page 2, Lines 3 through 5 are to add two new members: a Native American representing Native Americans with autism spectrum disorder and an adult with autism spectrum disorder. Adding these additional members were recommendations from the Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force as well as from other advocacy organizations and coalitions.

The Department estimates a minimal fiscal impact for adding the two additional Task Force members and felt any additional costs could be covered within existing funding used to support member's attendance at Task Force meetings.

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