

**Testimony
Human Services Committee
Department of Human Services
Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman
October 4, 2012**

Chairman Wieland and members of the Human Services Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Cabinet Lead, Program and Policy, for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here today to report the status of the Department's substance abuse disorder pilot voucher payment program pursuant to Section 2 of the 2011 Senate Bill No. 2326.

The 2011, Senate Bill No. 2326, directed the Department to establish and administer a pilot voucher payment program to provide substance abuse services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. In order to establish the pilot voucher payment program, the Department is to apply for funding available through a federal Access to Recovery (ATR) grant program available from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

In my latest contact with SAMHSA at the end of September 2012, to gain current information on the ATR grant program, I was informed that SAMHSA is currently determining the focus of future grant opportunities. Both the sequestration and recent congressional passage of the Continuing Resolution, which funds the federal government operations from October 1, 2012 through March 27, 2013, are effecting their

planning. Specifically in regards to ATR, nothing has been shared about future ATR or ATR-like funding opportunities.

I have frequent contact with our SAMHSA project officer and will continue to monitor this grant's potential announcement.