

Testimony
Senate Bill 2030 - Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman

January 15, 2019

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Director of the Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2030.

Senate Bill 2030 provides the Department an appropriation to continue implementation of the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) recommendations.

In 2017, as a component of interim legislative committee studies during the 65th Legislative Interim, the Behavioral Health Division contracted with HSRI to conduct an in-depth review of North Dakota's behavioral health system. HSRI published the North Dakota Behavioral Health System Study in April of 2018. This report identified more than 65 recommendations in 13 categories.

In August of 2018, the Behavioral Health Division again contracted with HSRI for HSRI to initiate and facilitate the implementation of the recommendations from the comprehensive study. These contracts were funded through a portion of the justice reinvestment dollars allocated to workforce and system development, which expires June of 2019.

HSRI implementation continuation was also included in the Governor's Executive Budget as a Department of Human Services optional adjustment request: *Sustain Human Services Research Institute Behavioral Health Study implementation support (\$300,000)*.

Continued implementation of the HSRI recommendations has the potential to address HSRI goals #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions.