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.