

Testimony
House Bill 1201 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 18, 2013

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Erik Elkins, Assistant Director of the Medical Services Division, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide information on House Bill 1201.

This bill would require the North Dakota Medicaid program to exercise the state option and allow physician assistants to be primary care case managers for North Dakota Medicaid recipients. Federal Regulations (42 CFR 438.2) currently allow physician assistants to serve as primary care case managers:

(42 CFR 438.2) Definitions: Primary care case manager (PCCM) means a physician, a physician group practice, an entity that employs or arranges with physicians to furnish primary care case management services or, at State option, any of the following:

- (1) A physician assistant
- (2) A nurse practitioner
- (3) A certified nurse-midwife

In order to accommodate the selection of a physician assistant, the Department would need to either modify the current (legacy) Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) or delay implementation until the new MMIS is in production, which is scheduled for October 2013; therefore, the Department is requesting a delayed implementation until the legacy MMIS changes can be made or until the new MMIS “goes live.”

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