

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to continue to study dental services in the state, including the effectiveness of case management services and the state infrastructure necessary to cost effectively use mid-level providers to improve access to services and address dental service provider shortages in underserved areas of the state.

WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee studied how to improve access to dental services and ways to address dental service provider shortages; and

WHEREAS, oral health professionals are located mostly in urban areas of the state, resulting in a shortage of providers in rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, access to dental care is limited for Medicaid-eligible children, rural residents, low-income adults, the elderly, especially those in nursing homes, and Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, emergency room visits for preventable dental conditions result in unnecessary costs to the state and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee learned case management services may have the potential to reduce dental costs and improve access to services; and

WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee received a report on the early impacts of dental therapists in Minnesota prepared by the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Board of Dentistry for the Minnesota Legislature in 2014 indicating mid-level providers serve more patients enrolled in public health insurance programs and some patients served in clinics employing dental therapists experienced reduced wait times and travel times with no quality or safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee determined additional information was needed regarding the effectiveness of case management services and the state infrastructure necessary to cost effectively utilize mid-level providers to improve access to services and address dental service provider shortages in underserved areas of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE
_____ CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Legislative Management continue to study dental services in the state, including the effectiveness of case management services and the state infrastructure necessary to cost effectively utilize mid-level providers to improve access to services and address dental service provider shortages in underserved areas of the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly.