TESTIMONY

Presented by: **Rebecca L. Ternes**
Deputy Commissioner
North Dakota Insurance Department

Before: **Budget Section**

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Good afternoon. My name is Rebecca Ternes and I am the Deputy Insurance Commissioner. I am here to update you on the status of provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

New Federal Rules and Guidance

The following is an incomplete list of proposed rules, guidance and notice of proposed rulemaking issued since your last meeting. These documents are all being reviewed by the Department.

- Proposed rule on Essential Health Benefits, actuarial value and accreditation of health insurers
- Proposed rule on health insurance market reforms
- Guidance on determining full time equivalent employees for large group employers
- Notice of proposed rulemaking on group health insurance use of wellness programs
- Proposed rule on risk adjustment, reinsurance and risk corridors programs in Exchanges as well as advance payments of the premium tax credit, and cost-sharing reductions
- Notice of proposed rulemaking to implement the Multi-State Plan Program (MSPP) pursuant to Section 1334 of the Affordable Care Act

National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)

The Commissioner and several staff recently attended the fall meeting of the NAIC. While there we participated in numerous meetings and discussions with other states and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on health care reform.

Staff also continue to be on weekly phone conference calls with other state Departments of Insurance working on health care reform.

Federal Government Contact

Along with numerous regular nationwide phone meetings with other states and HHS officials, I am personally having bi-weekly phone meetings with our federal state officers to share information unique to North Dakota's insurance regulatory process, stakeholders and marketplace.

Insurer Issues

The Department continues to have discussion with our health insurers about all aspects of PPACA. We expect this dialogue to increase as we get closer to 2014.

We also expect a large increase in product and rate filings in early 2013 as insurers prepare new products and amend existing products to fulfill the law's requirements.

We are setting up various strategies to deal with this influx of filings and issues.

That concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.