

Sanford Health  
1720 S. University  
Fargo, ND 58103

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July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to Senate Bill 2243. I would like to put forth for your consideration some concerns regarding the behavioral health needs of adults in the state of North Dakota. The demand for behavioral health services is great. One of the primary concerns that we see for uninsured clients is a need for chemical dependency treatment. Robinson Recovery Center is the only residential treatment facility that we have available to eastern ND residents without insurance.

Additionally, there are limited resources available for the treatment of geriatric clients. As our North Dakota population ages, this is becoming an increasingly concerning issue. The behavioral health services offered in rural areas for adults are limited. Many times patients in Wahpeton, Lisbon, or Hillsboro do not have the funds to come to Fargo.

Our social workers have found that there are not enough case management services available in our state and that often, an initial appointment with a psychiatrist is several months out. The cost of psychiatric medications is also a significant issue.

Additionally, we also find that patients who need long term treatment, wait for weeks or months to receive a State Hospital bed. The need for the care the North Dakota State Hospital can provide continues to be robust.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Moraghan CNS  
Interim Director  
Inpatient Behavioral Health