

**Testimony**  
**Health Services Committee**  
**8:45 a.m., Wednesday, July 27, 2016**  
**North Dakota Department of Health**

Good morning Chairman Lee and members of the Health Services Committee. My name is Brenda Weisz, the Director of the Accounting Division at the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). I am here today to provide information on the dental loan repayment program, along with an update on federal funds.

The application deadline for the state dental loan repayment program is generally March of every year. The applications are reviewed and prioritized by the NDDoH, in consultation with the North Dakota Dental Association, and presented to the Health Council for their approval. After amendments made by the 2015 Legislative Assembly, the current program provides loan repayment up to \$100,000 over 5 years. Prior to the 2015 legislation, loan repayment contracts were limited to three each year. With the change in statute, the number of loan repayment contracts that are issued each year of the biennium is dependent upon the funding appropriated by the Legislature. In April 2016, the Health Council approved eight applications based on the availability of funds. However, since issuing the contracts, two of the dentists have decided to decline the contract because of the penalty section currently included in statute. Both dentists felt they could not commit to the full five years based on their personal situation. The current penalty language is as follows:

*If a dentist who receives loan repayment funds under this chapter breaches the loan repayment program contract by failing to begin or failing to complete the obligated service, the dentist is liable for the total amount of any loan repayment funds received.*

While surveys are completed, there is not a specific question regarding the dentists' decisions to practice in a particular community.

Finally, a summary of information related to dentists participating in the loan repayment program from 2005 – 2016 is presented in Attachment A. The attachment also reflects the dentists' original service location and current location, if no longer in the community served as part of the loan repayment program.

Regarding federal funds, the state Oral Health Program provides services to children through the school-based fluoride varnish and sealant program (Seal!ND).

Services include an initial screening, sealant placement and fluoride varnish application. Schools with 45 percent or more of their students on the free and reduced-fee school lunch program are given priority for the program. This criteria focuses the reach of the program on underserved children who may otherwise be unable to receive dental screening, dental sealants and fluoride varnish to help prevent tooth decay, the most common chronic disease of childhood. All students in grades kindergarten through six in the participating schools are offered services. In some of the smaller schools, services are offered to students in all grades. The majority of schools meeting the 45 percent or more of their students on the free and reduced-fee school lunch program are being served either through the state program or through partnerships that have been established, such as the Care Mobile, Federally Qualified Health Centers and/or private dentists. Sixty-nine schools are currently being served by dental programs.

Funding for the Seal!ND Program is provided primarily through a Health Resources and Services Administrative (HRSA) Oral Health Workforce Grant and partially through a Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Oral Disease Prevention Program Grant. The HRSA grant funds will be available to support this program through August 31, 2017, at which time the three-year grant cycle will end (approximately \$435,000/year). The CDC grant funds will be available to support this program through August 31, 2018, at which time the five-year grant cycle will end (approximately \$310,000/year). Historically, there has been opportunity to apply for a new cycle of grant funds; however, new funding announcements are generally not released until four to six months before each grant cycle ends. In addition, these funds are competitive. Despite the success of the state Oral Health Program, HRSA grant funds were not received during 2012-2013. Consequently, at that time, three public health hygienist positions and a data entry position were eliminated (all temporary positions), resulting in a significant reduction of school-based services. These grant funds were restored in 2014 and services and staff were re-established and we are not currently dealing with a loss of federal funds.

This concludes my presentation. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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**Dental Loan Repayment Program History**

Dental Loan Repayment Program									
Dentist Name	Original location	Current Location, if different	2005-07	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-15	2015-17	
Manolivits, Dr. Kristen	Mott		80,000						
Quinn, Dr. William J.	Bismarck		33,792						
Ritter, Dr. Stephanie	Minot		80,000						
Steidl, Dr. Jaime	Fargo		52,500						
Beneda, Dr. Nicholas D.	Park River			80,000					
Korsmo, Dr. Grant	Grand Forks			80,000					
Mack, Dr. Benjamin F.	Cando / Devils Lake	Devils Lake		80,000					
Santjer, Dr. Kathy	Rugby			80,000					
Turman, Dr. Christopher	Wishek			80,000					
Goebel, Dr. Bryce	Bismarck			80,000					
Hoge, Dr. Chad	Fargo	Fargo & Grand Forks			80,000				
Orn, Dr. Carrie	Jamestown				80,000				
Volk, Dr. Mathew	Larimore				80,000				
Bulik, Dr Brian	Valley City	Valle City & Fargo			80,000				
Giese, Dr. Travis	Wishek	Bismarck			80,000				
Dornfeld, Dr. Kamila	Williston				80,000				
Shelby, Dr. Daniel	Langdon / Walhalla	Havre, MT			80,000				
Jelsing, Dr. Priscila	Hazen					80,000			
Sarlsand, Dr. Jennifer	Bowman					80,000			
Garr, Dr. Benjamin	Carrington						80,000		
Messer, Dr. Jeremy	Williston						80,000		
Stevens, Dr. Sterling	Cavalier						80,000		
Allen, Dr. Lucas	Watford City	- left ND in 2015					20,000		
Ovsepian, Dr. Narek	Watford City	- left ND in 2015					40,000		
Ellingson, Dr. Amy	New Rockford						80,000		
Allen, Dr. Julia	Watford City	- left ND in 2015							
Hensen, Dr. Jerick	Minot						80,000		
Trout, Dr. Carl	Fargo / Grand Forks	Fargo					80,000		
Weiss, Dr. Jessica	Beulah						80,000		
York, Dr. Jordan	Williston						80,000		
Bruins, Dr. Whitney	Turtle Lake	<i>declined payment and terminated contract 2016</i>							
Bulzomi, Dr. Monty	Watford City							100,000	
Hafner, Dr. Weston	Bowman							100,000	
Miller, Dr. Clinton	Harvey							100,000	
Sticka, Dr. Samuel	Dickinson							100,000	
Robinson, Dr. April	Dickinson							100,000	
Goebel, Dr. Drew	Bismarck							100,000	
			\$ 246,292	\$ 480,000	\$ 560,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 600,000	

Dental New Practice Grants								
Dentist Name			2005-07	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-15	2015-17
Volk, Dr. Mathew	Larimore				\$ 25,000			

Dental Non Profit Public Health									
Dentist Name			2005-07	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-15	2015-17	
Remmick, Dr. Robert	Grand Forks	Devils Lake			60,000				
Schock, Dr. Kristin	Bismarck				60,000				
Wilson, Dr. Andrea	Fargo				60,000				
Nord, Dr. Jackie	Grand Forks						27,077	*	
Rud, Dr. Courtney	Fargo						30,000	*	
Eriksson, Dr. Christopher	Grand Forks	Fargo					30,000	*	
Sticka, Dr. Samuel	Fargo	<i>left program &amp; paid back the \$30,000 he had rec'd</i>						30,000	
			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,000	\$ -	\$ 117,077	\$ -	

\* - Loan recipient also received loan repayment in the same amount under the Federal State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

Federal State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)								
Dentist Name			2005-07	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-15	2015-17
Ehrhardt, Dr. Thomas	Bismarck						\$60,000	