

Testimony
Senate Bill 2122 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 13, 2021

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, for the record my name is Chris Jones, Executive Director of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today in opposition to Senate Bill 2122.

The Department is opposing this bill for two reasons. First, allowing physical therapists to order imaging is unnecessary and may lead to increased utilization of imaging in the Medicaid program. Overutilization increases costs but could also increase exposure to radiation for our clients. There is a longstanding concern about overutilization of imaging in the U.S. In 2012 the *Choosing Wisely* national campaign began. This campaign is aimed at reducing unnecessary medical tests and treatment. The campaign has 77 recommendations on areas where imaging should be avoided or reduced.

Second, allowing physical therapists to order imaging could undermine the Department's efforts toward value based purchasing. Most value based purchasing models evaluate a provider, or facility, on the total cost of care delivered as it relates to a person, episode, or event. This bill could make controlling the total cost of care difficult for the physician who is financially responsible under a value based purchasing model. We can use a knee replacement as an example. If we evaluate total costs of care received pre- and post- knee replacement, and a physical therapist ordered an image (unbeknownst to the provider

who is responsible for the surgery such as an orthopedic surgeon), then the provider will be penalized negatively for costs that were incurred even though they were out of his/her control.

In summary, this bill is unnecessary, could drive higher costs in the Medicaid program, and could undermine value based purchasing efforts.

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