

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

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SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2384

2007 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2384

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2384

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-30-07

Recorder Job Number: 2232, 2327

Committee Clerk Signature

*Mary R. Monson*

Minutes:

Vice Chairman Senator Erbele, opened the hearing on SB 2384 to provide for an appropriation to the state department of health for the purpose of providing health safety grants to local public health units.

Senator Tom Fischer (District #46) introduced SB 2384. He said that an error was made when it was drafted so there would be an amendment proposed.

Senator Mathern (District #11) testified in support of SB 2384. (Attachment #1)

Senator Dever said he also participated in one of the 100% access seminars and recalled it as an initiative of the governor with the proviso that it not have an impact on the state budget. He asked if this money was requested of the governor in his budget process.

Sen. Mathern said he didn't know for sure.

Karen Larson (Dep. Director, Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas) distributed copies of a requested amendment that basically clarifies the language to the original intent their coalition was seeking. (Attachment #2)

Dr. John Baird (Field Medical Officer with the ND Dept. of Health) testified in support of SB 2384. (Attachment #3)

Senator J. Lee asked for an example of the kind of program they might be considering that may have been successful in other places.

Dr. Baird answered that Tim Cox would also be testifying and mentioning some of the programs. Some examples are what they call the three share or multi share program where 1/3 is paid by the employee, 1/3 is paid by the employer, and 1/3 is paid from a government entity (Meter 17:35)

Tim Cox (President, Northland Healthcare Alliance) testified in support of SB 2384.  
(Attachment #4)

Testimony from Ronald Volk (President, St. Aloisius Medical Center) was submitted for the record. (Attachment #5)

Rodger Wetzel (Director, Eldercare, Community Health, and Foundation Programs at St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck) testified in support of SB 2384. (Attachment #6)

Senator Erbele asked if he had a breakdown on the charity care that would have come to their emergency room.

Mr. Wetzel said he did not but could get that information.

Senator Dever asked how this bill would impact that circumstance.

Mr. Wetzel replied that this bill would help them, systematically, bring the broader community together.

Senator Heckaman asked if he was saying they would really help out with this program by supplying some money.

Mr. Wetzel replied that was something they already have had conversations about. That is something they would want to look at.

Senator Heckaman asked if they were seeing more instances where the doctors in their clinics and hospitals are unable to supply the free meds from the drug reps.

Mr. Wetzel said absolutely the supplies of free and low cost are decreasing.

Senator J. Lee asked if they are not making use of the ND prescription services.

Mr. Wetzel replied big time they are. Part of the problem is often folks need immediate prescriptions.

Senator J. Lee asked if they do any communicating with the business community about this.

Mr. Wetzel answered that Fargo has been a model in the state. Absolutely, they have to be involved.

Senator J. Lee said the self insured plans are creating issues with children's health care coverage in custodial, non-custodial parent situations. Primarily they are non-custodial parents supposed to provide health care and if they have a skinny ERISA plan, it's not doing what the kids need. There is more to having a skinny health plan than just the employed worker if they have dependent children who need to be covered as well.

Mr. Wetzel said that is one of the reasons they've tried to expand the awareness on the caring program for children and SCHIPS and Medicaid. At least, to try to encourage folks that might be eligible.

Senator J. Lee said she was disappointed that that there is not 100% enrollment in CHIPs.

Senator Pomeroy asked if the \$400,000 the bill asks for is one time or ongoing.

Mr. Wetzel said the intent is basically for one shot demonstration projects.

Mary Kay Herrmann (Chair, South Valley Health Access Coalition) testified in support of SB 2384. (Attachment #7)

Senator Heckaman asked what they use their seed money for.

Ms. Herrmann said they would probably use the new seed money for move forward with a plan that they develop with the support they are getting from Dakota Medical Association.

Senator Heckaman asked if this money would be used for a staff position.

Ms. Herrmann said she would see it being used to staff somebody to coordinate and move forward.

Senator J. Lee asked if she anticipated that there might be a project in each region.

Ms. Herrmann said that right now they have one in Fargo and Bismarck. They would anticipate looking at each region.

Karen Larson (Deputy Director, Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas) testified in support of SB 2384 as proposed to be amended. (Attachment #8)

Senator J. Lee asked Ms. Herrmann to refresh their memories as to what federally qualified health centers are.

Ms. Herrmann said that federally qualified health centers have been in existence for 41 years.

They were begun in urban areas but have expanded greatly into the rural areas of the country.

Basically they are primary health care clinics that provide safety net care. They are not free clinics. They are allowed to collect and receive reimbursement through Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance or self pay. She talked about grants (Meter53:00) and sliding fee scales.

She also talked about some of the advantages of the centers (Meter 54.50).

There was no opposing or neutral testimony.

The hearing on SB 2384 was closed.

Senator Heckaman moved to accept the amendments by Karen Larson.

Motion was seconded by Senator Warner.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. Motion carried.

The committee was adjourned

**Job #2327**

Senator J. Lee, Chairman, called the committee back to order to discuss SB 2384. She asked David Martin (President, Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce) to make comments from

the business person's point of view that would be helpful in the discussion about the cost of health coverage and health care.

Mr. Martin said the top two issues for their members over the last five years have been workforce and health care. They are very closely related. (Meter 1:25) Education is key to helping people realize they do have choices and they do have personal responsibility in terms of their own health and welfare and that, as they work together with health care providers and employers, they are able to take the steps they are able to take. Sometimes they can't do everything they might like to do regarding their own health but then they have the state and employer step into the picture to try to provide a complete picture for the health and welfare of citizens of ND. Employers want to be good employers. Most have health insurance in one of two ways, through government or employers. They want to do what they can to help their employees to have that access to high quality health care. But paying for it sometimes becomes a challenge.

Senator J. Lee asked if they were doing anything in the Chamber as a business community, in general, that focuses on perks and benefits for people who are in wellness programs.

Mr. Martin said more and more employers are doing that because they realize they can provide incentives for employees that will help them to be healthy which will make them more productive. Health education comes for their family members. That's when the community health education programs come into play. It helps to spread the word among the general population.

Senator J. Lee reminded the committee they had adopted the amendment that includes the community based non profit organization. She said the challenge before them was figuring out the money for each of these.

Senator Pomeroy moved a Do Pass as amended and rerefer to Appropriations.

Motion seconded by Senator Heckaman.

(Meter 8:00) Discussion followed that there was support for this with the idea that it is not a continuing thing. Otherwise, it would just be increasing funding for public health units. If that's the case then it should be approached that way. Discussion continued on public health funding.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. Motion carried. Carrier is Senator J. Lee.



Date: 1-30-07  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2384

Senate HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Amendment K. Larson

Motion Made By Sen. Heckaman Seconded By Sen. Warner

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Robert Erbele, V. Chair	✓		Senator Jim Pomeroy	✓	
Senator Dick Dever	✓		Senator John M. Warner	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 1-30-07  
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**  
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2384**

Senate HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken DP / amended approp.

Motion Made By Sen. Pomeroy Seconded By Sen. Heckaman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Robert Erbele, V. Chair	✓		Senator Jim Pomeroy	✓	
Senator Dick Dever	✓		Senator John M. Warner	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator J. Lee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2384: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2384 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.**

Page 1, line 2, replace "safety" with "care access" and after "units" insert "and community-based nonprofit organizations"

Page 1, line 7, replace "safety" with "care access" and after "units" insert "and community-based nonprofit organizations"

Page 1, line 9, after "units" insert "and community-based nonprofit organizations"

Page 1, line 13, after "develop" insert "community-based"

Renumber accordingly

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2384

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2384

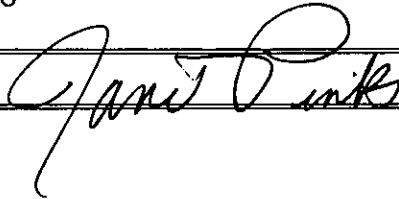
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02-09-07

Recorder Job Number: 3278

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Holmberg** opened the hearing on SB 2384.

**Senator Tom Fischer, District 46, Fargo**, introduced and asked support of SB 2384, indicating this bill came out of a two year plus effort of many health care providers and interested parties throughout the state trying to find ways for everyone to access health care.

**Chairman Holmberg** questioned whether this bill is a duplicate of another bill and the response was no.

**Senator Kilzer** asked if this was an overlap of services of the Center for Rural Health and the response was this is more grass roots, the center is more research.

**Senator Tim Mathern, District 11, Fargo**, distributed a forum article regarding development of health care policy around the country. He indicated there are big pressures because of cost and access issues and many states are moving forward with plans for their states.

**Karen Larson, Deputy Director of the Community Health Care Association of the Dakotas**, distributed written testimony and testified in support of SB 2384 and introduced Tim Cox to come forward and speak.

**Tim Cox, President of Northland Healthcare Alliance**, distributed written testimony and testified in support of SB 2384 and health insurance coverage. He distributed a chart showing

what is happening in other states. He specifically discussed the Three Share Model, started as an experiment in Michigan, the second is the Grant Program and the benefits to the state.

**Senator Bowman** indicated to go into a small business and tell owners they have to participate in this plan. The response was that this program is not mandated for any community but it has the flexibility to use it if they should chose to.

**Dr. John Baird, field medical officer, ND Dept of Health** distributed written testimony in support of SB 2384.

**Rodger Wetzel, Director, Eldercare, Community Health and Foundation Programs, St.**

**Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck,** presented written testimony in support of SB 2384.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on ST 2384.

**Senator Fischer moved a DO PASS, Senator Mathern seconded. Discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 7 yes, 9 no, 1 absent and Senator Judy Lee will carry the bill.**

Date: 2/9/07  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**  
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2384**

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Fischer Seconded By Mathern

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chrm		✓	Senator Aaron Krauter	✓	
Senator Bill Bowman, V Chrm		✓	Senator Elroy N. Lindaas	✓	
Senator Tony Grindberg, V Chrm		✓	Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Senator Randel Christmann		✓	Senator Larry J. Robinson	✓	
Senator Tom Fischer	✓		Senator Tom Seymour	✓	
Senator Ralph L. Kilzer		✓	Senator Harvey Tallackson		
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach		✓			
Senator Rich Wardner	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 6

Absent 1

Floor Assignment HMS

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 9, 2007 1:44 p.m.

Module No: SR-28-2761  
Carrier: J. Lee  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2384, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Engrossed SB 2384 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



2007 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2384

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2384

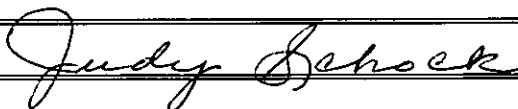
House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 5, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4324

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Price:** We will open the hearing on SB 2384.

**Senator Tom Fischer, District 46:** The bill is to appropriate 400,000 dollars for health care access grants. I attended 2 state wide meetings and, you would be surprised in just the word access in the different areas of the state. There are areas you need to drive 80 miles for a provider.

**Dr. John Baird, field medical officer for the ND Department of Health:** See attached testimony.

**Rodger Wetzel, Director of the Eldercare, Community Health and Foundation Programs at St. A's Medical Center in Bismarck:** See attached testimony. Also attached brochure.

**Representative Conrad:** What kinds of things are you envisioning this to do?

**Mr. Wetzel:** We really want to expand our efforts and we need some resources, and some staff time. We are open to looking at any option. WE would be looking at some of the options that Mr. Cox will be present subsidized health foods, some volunteers. We really want to look at the broad range. We obviously have see some of our success. You will see some in the brochure. I have also brought **testimony from Kay Hermann**, who was not able to be here.

**Tim Cox, President of Northland Healthcare Alliance:** See attached testimony. The coalition is in place, we just don't have the resources to move them forward.

**Representative Hofstad:** Under the project access, is that program (could not understand) by the physicians being done outside the umbrella of the provider?

**Mr. Cox:** They do under a separate organization that they have formed in those communities.

I also have testimony from **Karen Larson, Deputy Director of the Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas**. I also have a hand out on the do's and don'ts of the bill.

**Chairman Price:** We have more information dropped off for the committee to look over. See attached. Anyone else to testify for SB 2384? Any opposition? Hearing none we will close the hearing on SB 2384.

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2384

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 7, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4601

Committee Clerk Signature

*Judith Schock*

Minutes:

**Rep. Price:** Did other people get different messages on this bill from what they were saying?

Some talked about insurance and some talked about the access to providers.

**Rep. Conrad:** It seemed to me that it is one of those things where they are trying to encourage new ideas. They want small grants to do those things which may help them. Sometimes it's just little things, though. That is why they were talking about all those different things that they wanted to do like subsidize insurance in small businesses.

**Rep. Kaldor:** I have two questions. First of all when I look at the appropriation I'm trying to figure out how that is going to be real meaningful. But one of the testifiers did talk a little bit about what can be accomplished with these funds. He also talked a little bit about helping individuals. He talked about helping families find programs. I don't know if something like that already exists in the health department.

**Rep. Price:** I'm not sure what the duties are except for steer families towards that.

**Rep. Kaldor:** So that doesn't really sustain?

**Rep. Price:** We don't have those everywhere. I understand that not every community has them.

**Rep. Kaldor:** Will this ensure that they are in every community?

**Rep. Price:** No.

**Rep. Conrad:** Well we don't have many things that we are doing to encourage new options and new things. This is one very small to help cultivate some of these ideas. We have to pass this \$4 million out of here to do that in appropriations.

**Rep. Price:** Yes that is true.

**Rep. Conrad:** This is a big issue. I know when I was going door to door this year that it was often a top thing that was asked dealing with health insurance.

**Rep. Price:** Along with health insurance cost?

**Rep. Conrad:** Yes. They were looking for different ways you can pay covering that cost. It's a stretch.

**Rep. Weisz:** To me the bill is talking about access. In the testimony it was about insurance and who was insured. The difference if you are looking at it is the insurance part of it.

**Rep. Price:** Over \$840,000 goes to that.

**Rep. Weisz:** That is the thing. If we get something that is actually going to insure a bunch of kids. If they are talking about access, I don't think that is an issue. Again, the testimony sent out mixed signals about the price and if we have access out there.

**Rep. Price:** Well what do you want to do?

**Rep. Weisz:** I move a do not pass.

**Rep. Damschen:** I second that.

**Rep. Price:** Is there any discussion?

**Rep. Uglem:** My only concern about this is if we are talking about the uninsured and under insured; will the state end up paying that anyways when we do that? I have real mixed feelings on that.

**Rep. Price:** This access coalition that you got the membership list from, they are meeting on a regular basis already. I have been at one of their meetings. They aren't going to stop meeting regardless of what this bill does. It won't totally disappear.

**Rep. Conrad:** If they are going to come up with new ideas, they are a group. They do have a lot of business people involved in them as well as advocates. They need a little money to try some of those new ideas. We should be a partner in that and we don't really have another vehicle in participating in finding solutions.

**Rep. Price:** They have only met for two years. The other way I look at it is that the medical foundation is funded to try some of those access programs. They have funded the outreach programs.

**Rep. Pietsch:** The Department I am looking at is looking for \$38,500 for administrative oversight.

**Rep. Kaldor:** Do we know what the original appropriation was?

**Rep. Price:** I'm not sure.

**Rep. Kaldor:** The reason I ask that question is because as I read the testimony they have some fairly optimistic outcomes for what this is going to do. I just wanted to square that away.

**Rep. Price:** Is there any more discussion? If not we will take a roll call vote on SB 2384. The do not pass motion passes with a vote of 9-3-0. Is there a volunteer to carry this bill?

**Rep. Damschen:** I will.

**Rep. Conrad:** I have talked to some of the people who have received these grants. The message they are getting from the foundation is that the state of ND needs to start coming up with some participation in these. It is good to use the foundation so that they can't get to the point where they say they are the only ones funding this, it should have some government responsibility at some point.



REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
March 8, 2007 7:58 a.m.

Module No: HR-44-4684  
Carrier: Damschen  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

SB 2384, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman)  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (9 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Engrossed SB 2384 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.



2007 TESTIMONY

SB 2384

SB 2384  
Human Service Committee  
January 30, 2007

Madam Chairman Lee and Members of the Human Service Committee,

My name is Tim Mathern. I am the Senator from District 11 in Fargo and here in support of SB2384. This bill provides an appropriation to the state department of health for the purpose of providing grants to local public health units.

This past year I participated in discussions with our local chamber of commerce, insurance companies, health care providers, and health care advocates regarding the dramatic increase of health care costs. The goal was to get all the stakeholders together to find solutions. The meetings brought recognition to each of the interests involved of the complicated nature of this issue.

I attach a January 21, 2007 Forum article for a synopsis of the health care debate before us.

If we do not find local solutions regarding health care a federal system will likely be put in place. Grants from the health department will help us find local solutions to the challenges before us. This bill makes that possible.

SB 2384 sets some parameters for what is to be discussed and permits local people to get the right stakeholders to the table. I urge a do pass recommendation for SB2384.

Thank you.

