

**SB 2161**

**Human Services Committee**

**Testimony of Ashley Revering in support**

**March 9, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I offer testimony in support of SB 2161, which would add two new sections to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code regarding a mental health provider registry and behavioral bed management system. Coming from a rural area of North Dakota, oftentimes it can be difficult to get the resources needed, especially when it comes to mental health. Growing up, I had friends and even family members that needed to seek help for their mental health, but they were unaware of their options of professionals who specialize in a certain area, much less where to find the specialist's contact information. By creating a state registry of mental health professionals, it will allow state residents to have ease of access to finding a mental health provider that can best suit their personal needs, especially for those in rural areas.

A behavioral health bed management system will also be beneficial to the state. A system of this sort will allow both mental health providers and individuals to be aware of their opportunity to be provided such services. It could also allow for effective and efficient communication between the private and public entities with the service and health care providers, along with the general public.

By inserting the two new sections to Chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, it will be able to provide the public with essential information about services that are available to them. With the registry and the bed management system, it will allow ease of access to residents

and working professionals to get information without having to waste valuable time. I thank you for your time and urge a “do pass” recommendation on SB 2161.