

Testimony
Senate Bill 2133 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 19, 2021

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Caprice Knapp, Director of the Medical Services Division for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2133, which will establish a credentialing system for community paramedics, community emergency medical technicians and community advanced emergency medical technicians. The bill will also expand North Dakota Medicaid coverage for services provided by these practitioners.

The Department supports the Senate Bill 2133 because:

- Expansion of the roles of community paramedics, community emergency medical technicians and community advanced emergency medical technicians will help address the state's health care workforce shortage; and
- It will facilitate access to care and improved outcomes for high-risk Medicaid members, leading to decreased utilization of services such as emergency departments and overall lower costs of care for members who have access to these services.

Subsection 2 of section 50-24.1-038 of the North Dakota Century Code gives the Department rulemaking authority to govern payments, limitations and exclusions for services provided by community paramedics, community emergency medical technicians and community advanced emergency medical technicians. The scope of practice and credentialing for community paramedics, community emergency medical technicians and community

advanced emergency medical technicians will need to be finalized before decisions can be made regarding the Medicaid services that can be delivered by these practitioners.

Currently, North Dakota Medicaid does not cover all of the services mentioned in Senate Bill 2133. Because subsection 2 of section 50-24.1-38 of the North Dakota Century Code gives the Department rulemaking authority, the services that North Dakota Medicaid is able to reimburse these practitioners will be finalized after the scope of practice and credentialing rules are implemented by the Department of Health. We estimate that North Dakota Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by these practitioners can be in place within 12 months after the Department of Health finalizes the scope of practice and credentialing rules. This will give the Department enough time to promulgate rules that address which Medicaid members are eligible for services and which services are eligible for reimbursement.

The Department estimates a minimal fiscal impact for this bill in the 2021-23 biennium, as it will take some time for the State Health Council and Department to establish credentialing rules and Medicaid coverage rules. It will also take time for the workforce to be established.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.