

**Testimony  
House Bill 1396  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Monday, March 9, 2015; 9:00 a.m.  
North Dakota Department of Health**

Good morning Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Brenda Weisz, representing the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) as Director of the Accounting Division. I am here today to provide information on House Bill (HB) 1396.

HB1396 repeals chapters 43-12.2 and 43-17.2 of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) related to the existing physician and midlevel practitioner (including nurse practitioners, physician assistants and certified nurse midwives) loan repayment programs and creates a new loan repayment program for health care professionals, which incorporates physicians, clinical psychologists, midlevel practitioners, and behavioral health professionals . The bill also establishes the amount of loan repayment provided, the number of years of commitment in order to receive loan repayment, and the community match requirement for each profession. These components are outlined in the table below:

<b>Profession</b>	<b>Amt from State</b>	<b>Yrs of Commitment *</b>	<b>Community Match</b>
Physician	\$100,000	5 years	50% - \$50,000
Clinical Psychologist	\$60,000	5 years	25% - \$15,000
Midlevel Practitioner	\$20,000	5 years	10% - \$2,000
Behavior Health Professional	\$20,000	5 years	10% - \$2,000

\* The total amount of the loan repayment will be prorated over the number of years of service actually provided if the recipient does not provide service for the full five years.

In comparison, the physician loan repayment program currently provides loan repayment of \$90,000 (when including the community match) for a two year service commitment, while HB 1396 provides only \$60,000 for a two year commitment. The current midlevel practitioner loan repayment program provides loan repayment of \$30,000 (with community match) for a two year service commitment, while HB 1396 provides \$8,800 for a two year commitment. We are unsure if this change in legislation will provide adequate incentive for new

applicants, particularly with regard to midlevel practitioners whose total payment will be reduced from \$30,000 for two years of service to \$22,000 for five years of service.

The original House Bill 1004 (Department of Health appropriation bill) included \$495,000 for a behavioral health loan repayment program. HB 1115 would have created a new chapter of the NDCC to establish a state loan repayment program for clinical psychologists and other behavioral health professionals. The program would have provided a maximum loan repayment of \$90,000 to be paid over a two year period for a clinical psychologist and a maximum loan repayment of \$60,000 to be paid over a two year period for other behavioral health professionals.

HB 1115 did not pass the House of Representatives. Additionally, the funding of \$495,000 was not included in the House version of HB 1004. Instead the funding included in HB 1004 for new loan repayments initially intended for physicians and midlevel practitioners will now be spread over four professions rather than two. By spreading the loan repayments out over five years rather than two and reducing the amount available for midlevel practitioners, the funding provided in the House version of HB 1004 can accommodate the professional loan repayments under HB 1396 for the 2015-17 biennium.

Attachment A outlines the number of proposed applicants that may be funded under the requirements of HB 1396 within the appropriation contained in the House version of HB 1004.

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

New Funding for Physician / Midlevel Practitioners to be spread in Amended HB 1396

Attachment A

2015-17  
Executive Budget

General Funds	517,500
Special Funds	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>517,500</b>

		2015-17 Executive Budget				2017-2019	
		FY 2016	Pmt Date	FY 2017	Pmt Date	Obligation from 2015 - 17 Biennium	New Slots
<b>Physician, Psychologist, Midlevel Practitioners</b>							
<b>Behavioral Health - LSW, Licensed Prof. Couns.</b>							
<b>Addiction Couns., RN, LPNs</b>							
FY 16	#1 Physician	22,500		22,500		40,000	
	#2	22,500		22,500		40,000	
	#3	22,500		22,500		40,000	
	#4	22,500		22,500		40,000	
	#5	22,500		22,500		40,000	
	#6	22,500		22,500		40,000	
	#1 Psychologists					24,000	
	#2					24,000	
	#3					24,000	
	#1 Midlevel Practitioners	7,500		7,500		8,000	
	#2	7,500		7,500		8,000	
	#3	7,500		7,500		8,000	
	#4	7,500		7,500		8,000	
	#5	7,500		7,500		8,000	
	#1 Behavioral Health					8,000	
	#2					8,000	
	#3					8,000	
	#4					8,000	
	#5					8,000	
FY 17	#1 Physician			20,000		40,000	20,000
	#2			20,000		40,000	20,000
	#3			20,000		40,000	20,000
	#4			20,000		40,000	20,000
	#5			20,000		40,000	20,000
	#1 Psychologists			12,000		24,000	12,000
	#2			12,000		24,000	12,000
	#3			12,000		24,000	12,000
	#1 Midlevel Practitioners			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#2			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#3			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#4			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#1 Behavioral Health			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#2			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#3			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#4			4,000		8,000	4,000
	#5			4,000		8,000	4,000
	Subtotal	<b>\$172,500</b>		<b>\$344,500</b>			
<b>NEW LOANS TOTAL</b>				<b>\$517,000</b>		<b>344,000</b>	<b>516,000</b>
				<b>\$517,000</b>			<b>860,000</b>

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