

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2190
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 18, 2023

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Jessica Thomasson, Director of the Human Services Division in the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2190.

Senate Bill 2190 proposes changes to North Dakota Century Code chapter 50-33 relating to Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Section 1 page 1 lines 12-14, require the CCAP to provide for a “streamlined application coordinated with the supplemental nutrition assistance program and medical assistance”.

The Department’s Self-Service Portal and Combined Eligibility System (SPACES), includes a mobile friendly online application individuals can use to apply for the Child Care Assistance Program, along with all other Economic Assistance Programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid coverage. The online application is designed to ask only for the information necessary for the programs the individual has requested to be considered for.

In addition, the Department offers a paper application that is also designed to allow individuals to completed specific sections based on the assistance requested.

The proposed change on page 2 lines 8-10, requires a ten percent annual increase in the maximum monthly benefit rate, utilizing the 2023 program year as the base. The Department is proposing an amendment to this section which would require the program to use both a market

study and a cost study to inform its adjustment of the provider payment schedule, to result in an increase of no more than 10 percent each year.

An annual market study and cost study would allow the Department to consider more comprehensively the cost of providing child care when setting payment rates utilized as the basis for payments in the Child Care Assistance Program.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2190

Page 2, line 8, remove "Using the 2023 program year monthly benefit rates"

Page 2, replace lines 9 and 10 with "Each year the child care assistance program must use information from both a market study and a cost study to inform its adjustment of the provider payment schedule, to result in an increase of no more than ten percent each year."

Renumber accordingly