

Testimony
House Bill 1311 - Department of Human Services
House Judiciary Committee
Representative Klemin, Chairman
January 27, 2021

Chairman Klemin, and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Rosalie Etherington, Superintendent of the North Dakota State Hospital (NDSH) and Chief Clinics Officer of the Human Service Centers, of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here on behalf of the Department in opposition of House Bill 1311.

Current statute allows the North Dakota State Hospital, regional human service centers, and Life Skills and Transition Center, to prohibit weapons on our grounds and in our facilities. House Bill 1311 removes this ability and would allow individuals possessing a valid class 1 or class 2 firearm and dangerous weapons license to possess a firearm or dangerous weapon at a publicly owned or operated building, including these facilities.

As hospital and clinic administrators we need the discretion to restrict firearms and dangerous weapons on our grounds in order to provide a safe and secure environment for our patients and staff. Individuals we serve, sometimes in altered states of mind, require extraordinary caution to prevent harm.

For these reasons the Department opposes HB 1311.

This concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.