

**Testimony**  
**Health Services Committee**  
**August 1, 2017**  
**North Dakota Department of Health**

Good afternoon, Chairman Lee and members of the Health Services Committee, my name is Mylynn Tufte, MBA, MSIM, BSN. I was appointed by Governor Burgum to be State Health Officer on February 1, 2017, and started with the State of North Dakota on February 20, 2017. I bring over 20 years of healthcare experience to the State. My diverse background, as a former critical care nurse, healthcare executive and management consultant, coupled with my strategic and operational leadership skills is well suited to lead the Department of Health through a period of transformational change.

The Health Services Committee expressed an interest in the Medical Advisory Committee to the State Health Officer. According to North Dakota Century Code chapter 23-01-05, it states that if the Governor does not appoint as state health officer a physician licensed in this state, the Governor shall appoint at least three licensed physicians recommended by the North Dakota Medical Association to serve as an advisory committee to the state health officer. I'm grateful to have three distinguished physician advisors as members of this committee: Andrew McLean, MD, Fadel Nammour, MD, and Joshua Wynne, MD, MBA, MPH, and their appointments were effective April 1, 2017. Their term coincides with the term of the state health officer and they serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

**Dr. McLean** is the Medical Director for ND Department of Human Services and Clinical Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at University of

North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. McLean's clinical experience in behavioral health has been recognized with numerous awards including the American Psychiatric Association Bruno Lima Award for his Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Psychiatry in 2011. Dr. McLean sits on a number of Boards within the State and Nationally. Dr. McLean has partnered with the Department of Health on a recent National Governor's Association Rural Learning Collaborative effort to improve access to care with a specific focus on tele-behavioral services.

**Dr. Nammour** is double board certified in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine. He's an independent practitioner and owner of Dakota Gastroenterology Clinic located in Fargo, ND. Dr. Nammour has admitting staff privileges with three Fargo hospital systems: Essentia Health, Sanford Health and the VA Hospital. Dr. Nammour currently leads the Colorectal Roundtable and has been a valued partner to the Department's work related to improving colorectal cancer screening and prevention programs. Dr. Nammour sits on various other boards and is a clinical assistant professor at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

**Dr. Wynne** is double board certified in Cardiology and Internal Medicine. He currently serves as Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Wynne's *curriculum vitae* is long and distinguished in the areas of clinical practice, awards, research and presentations. Dr. Wynne also has a Master's Degree in Public Health and works with the department in multiple areas of prevention, training, informatics and epidemiology.

That concludes my testimony and I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.