



Joint Committee on Appropriations
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DERBY, CO-CHAIR
SENATOR JEAN HUNHOFF, CO-CHAIR

March 25, 2024
Melissa Magstadt, Department Secretary
Department of Health
600 E Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding the Grants to Assisted Living Centers and Nursing Centers for Telemedicine.

Dear Secretary Magstadt,

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2024 Legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on March 25, 2024.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

During the 2024 legislative session, the legislature passed SB 209 which appropriated \$5,000,000 in federal fund authority relating to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This fund is to be used to provide grants to assisted living centers and nursing homes with telemedicine technology and infrastructure necessary to use the telemedicine technology. The purpose of the grants is to use ARPA dollars to provide telemedicine technology to assisted living centers and nursing centers in remote and underserved parts of the state. The assisted living centers and nursing centers utilizing the grants for telemedicine technology are expected to cover the ongoing costs when the grants have been depleted.

The JCA requests a report on who was awarded a grant, how the grant was used, and the impact of the grant, which may include the number of patients served, the locations of the grant, and other information that the department may deem useful to demonstrate the use and impact of the grants.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Representative Mike Derby
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

Senator Jean Hunhoff
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Russell Olson, Auditor General
Jim Terwilliger, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management