

**House Appropriations Committee
67th Legislative Session
Representative Jeff Delzer-Chair**

Chairman Delzer and House Appropriations Committee,

Please accept this testimony in a support of HB 1015, line item “Guardianship grants”. Several elderly or disabled ND Veterans and/or Veterans dependents are unfortunately unable to properly care for themselves and are court appointed a public guardian on their behalf. These public guardians receive very little payment for their services. Unfortunately, due to underfunding, several court-appointed public guardian services go unfunded.

Please consider,

- The Guardianship Grants funding appropriation through HB 1015 is at a governor recommendation of \$1,950,000.
- 2021-2023 caseload projections estimate a funding shortfall which will affect 150 court appointed public guardianships.
- The real need for Guardianship Grants is \$2,500,000 a shortfall of \$ 550,000.
- I urge the proper funding of the guardianship programs during the 2021-2023 biennium.

The Guardianship programs protect the most vulnerable of ND Citizens. These programs should be among the highest priority for ND Legislators to fund.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lonnie Wangen
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