



**HB 1014**  
**Senate Appropriations**  
**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**  
**Senator Ray Holmberg, Chairperson**

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

My name is Roxane Romanick and I'm representing Designer Genes of ND, Inc., as their Executive Director. Designer Genes' membership represents 260 individuals with Down syndrome that either live in our state or are represented by family members in North Dakota. Designer Genes' mission is to strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn, and belong.

I am submitting testimony asking you for a "do pass" on HB 1014, North Dakota Protection and Advocacy's budget. North Dakota Protection and Advocacy is invaluable to our organization and to those that live with Down syndrome in our state. They provide both case specific advocacy to individuals whose rights have been violated and are in need of advocacy, but also programmatic and system advocacy that help to ensure quality lives in the community.

I have had the opportunity to work with many of the staff at North Dakota Protection and Advocacy on both case-specific situations and systems improvement work. Both have been so important in making sure that individuals with disabilities' rights have been protected. Their work on making sure the disability community is aware of legislative action, opportunities for public comment, and rights in the area of voting would be sorely missed if ND did not adequately fund North Dakota Protection and Advocacy.

Thank you.

Roxane Romanick  
Executive Director  
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