

Senate Education

Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Senate Bill No. 2269

January 26, 2021

Good afternoon, Chairman Schaible, and Members of the Senate Education Committee. I am Pam Mack, Director of Program Services for the Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A).

P&A is here today to support SB 2269 which allows for school district payments for postsecondary transitional programs for students with developmental disabilities. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that students with disabilities are provided with transition services that are coordinated and include a results-oriented process that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child to facilitate the movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education. (U.S.C. §§ 1411 to 1419, Section 300.43).

Many students with disabilities, between the ages of 18 and 21, find their choice for next steps limited due to their eligibility for services in the public-school system through the age of 21. SB 2269 provides for funding options, without additional cost to the state, which would allow students with disabilities to pursue enrollment in a postsecondary transitional program. P&A supports this option for students to expand their transition services in order to achieve great independence and post high school goals.

If you have any questions or would like to contact me, you can reach me by e-mail at pmack@nd.gov or by phone at (701) 328-3975. Thank you for your consideration.