

January 6, 2021

Madam Chair Lee and other members of the Committee. I am Rebecca Quinn and serve as a program director at the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The Center for Rural Health is contracted by the Department of Human Services to operate the North Dakota Brain Injury Network.

My testimony today is to provide information regarding Senate Bill 2039 relating to clarification of the membership for the brain injury advisory council. Currently, the membership of the Council is limited to only one survivor and only one family member. The proposed language in SB 2039 would be to allow for the option of increasing the representation and provide flexibility in filling member slots. Additionally, this clarification will bring North Dakota more in line with the requirements of the Federal Traumatic Brain Injury State Grant Program which requires state advisory boards to be “composed of a substantial number of individuals with traumatic brain injury, or the family members of such individuals.”

I am available to provide oral testimony if there are any questions or clarification needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Quinn; LMSW, CBIST