

**Larsen, Teresa A.**

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**From:** Larsen, Teresa A.  
**Sent:** Friday, February 5, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** Hogan, Kathy L.  
**Cc:** Vicki Peterson; Lorena Poppe; Carlotta McCleary - Federation; Dendy, Mandy; Dan Gulya  
**Subject:** proposed amendments for SB 2089

**Importance:** High



2.4.21 NDASDAC ASD Voucher  
amendments to ... White Paper 2.4....

Senator Hogan,

Please see attached for the proposed amendments for SB 2089 – the autism voucher. Also attached is a “white paper” to support the ND Autism Spectrum Disorder Advocacy Consortium’s (NDASDAC) rationale. The goal is to keep the voucher program but insert some carefully thought-out changes to make it more useful and effective for families.

As you will note in the white paper, the use of the voucher, and therefore the spending, has not met expectations. This does not mean it is not valuable to families. It is, but it would be more impactful with some changes. We expect that the fiscal note would be the same for the voucher as the current appropriation (\$1,325,009). While DHS indicates in its presentations that the voucher money would be repurposed to add 50 slots to the waiver, the waiver has significant unspent dollars to absorb the additional slots. As of 9/30/20 (62.5% of the biennium), only about 15% of the authorized funds for the waiver had been spent. You will see this is a trend, for the waiver and the voucher, as graphed on the second page of the white paper.

The voucher and the waiver are not the same and NDASDAC does not seek to make them so. Please consider this chart, from FVND, for a comparison.

Autism Waiver and Voucher Comparison



Focus Areas	Autism Waiver	Autism Voucher
Age Requirement	Birth thru age 13 until 14th birthday (proposed legislation for 2 more years added)	Ages 3 thru age 17 WOULD LIKE THIS INCREASED
	# of champions/volunteers invited to give on GHD	25
Diagnosis Specifics	Child must meet ICF criteria, Must have Autism Spectrum Diagnosis Must be residing in parents or care givers home	Must have Autism Spectrum Diagnosis ( does not include Intellectual Disability) Must be within 200%fpl WOULD LIKE THIS INCREASED
	# of personal GHD reminder calls made between now and GHD	30
Services	Would be eligible for the services under Medicaid	Cannot be used for any type of therapy
	Respite Care (may include 2 <sup>nd</sup> pair of hands)	<b>Can be used for:</b>
	Assistive Technology (can be a wide variety and can be considered equipment but many have been denied and must require a professional's recommendation and trials)	Respite SEE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
	Service Management (required)	AT
		Camps
		Training
		Tutors
		Wide variety but must enhance the quality life unique needs

The NDASDAC sincerely appreciates your consideration of the amendments, Senator Hogan. Some of us plan to be present for your Committee work on Monday morning. In the meantime, please let us know if we can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,