



Good Afternoon Chairman Klein and members of the Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee.

My name is Susanne Olson, I have worked in the hospice industry for 25 years. I am here representing our Statewide Hospice Organization today. All of the 17 hospice organizations in ND are part of the statewide organization.

Hospice is many things. Mostly, about living and making a difference during individuals last journey of life. This is done, as you may already know, through a multidisciplinary team of professionals to include Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Chaplains, CNA's and volunteers focusing on the physical, mental and spiritual needs of our client and their caregivers.

By managing symptoms and controlling pain, we give our patients the opportunity to enjoy the highest quality of life for as long as they have. This gives individuals the chance to share more special moments with their family and express all the things they need to say.

I can honestly say there is no better reward than:

- Seeing a huge smile on a custom combiner's face who is making "one last round" through a wheat field.
- Seeing a Veteran who is very near the end of life, raise himself in his bed to salute when receiving a medal and certificate of appreciation for his service to his country.
- Receiving a phone call of thanks from the son whose parents enjoyed one last romantic candle-light Valentines dinner where they enjoyed wine, dinner and most importantly one another company in his mom's nursing home room.
- A hug from a son after receiving a "worry cross" made from the wood of trees on the land of his multi-generation family farm.

It is an honor to be a part of Hospice teams that assist in making these moments happen.

Our organization is taking a neutral position on the legislation before you. We have one recommendation that we ask you consider. The rules will be very important in defining how residential end of life facilities are operated and how services are delivered and defined. We believe a collaborative group of stakeholders should be required to assist in the rule development process. We would like to be actively involved in that process. To our understanding that has been added to the bill and we thank you for your time and consideration.

If you need any information, please contact:
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