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House Education Committee

House Bill 2213 - March 17, 2025

Testimony of Brenda Ruehl, P&A Director of Program Services

Greetings Chairman Heinert and members of the Education Committee. My name is Brenda Ruehl and I'm a Director of Program Services at the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A is an independent state agency established in 1977 to assert and advance the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work and play.

P&A is in support of Bill 2213 relating to mathematics curriculum, professional development, screening and intervention, related administrative rules and reporting requirements, and mathematics instructor competency; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date with a request for an amendment. P&A requests an amendment to Page 4 Line 18 (5) to read, "For a student in kindergarten through grade **five**:"

Through our work with students with disabilities, we realize that even with screening for mathematics deficiencies and characteristics of dyscalculia, mathematic deficiencies may not be noticeable from kindergarten through grade three. Students who did not struggle in the earlier years can become deficient as math problems become more complex. Students with deficits in visual processing, short-term memory, language processing, long-term memory, understanding of quantities and amounts; and calculation, which is what unites all the above to solve the math problem may not demonstrate deficiencies in math problems until the problems become more complex and difficult.

By including the screening of students from kindergarten through grade five, it would level the playing field for students who have other struggles mentioned above.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Ruehl

P&A Director Program Services

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