

Testimony
Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2098
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Representative Austen Schauer, Chairman
March 6, 2025

Chairman Schauer, and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Tina Bay, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Section with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to provide testimony on Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2098.

I would like to bring your attention to Section 1, page 2, lines 1 through 3, which refer to North Dakota Century Code section 25-01.2-01. The language specifically identifies a minor with developmental disabilities; however, North Dakota Century Code 25-01.2-01 includes both children and adults.

While Section 1, page 1, lines 19-21 reference a “disabled adult,” the section of the Century Code cited does not define “disabled adult” but instead defines a “vulnerable adult.” This discrepancy may create a gap in which an adult with a developmental disability does not meet the definition of a “vulnerable adult” and, as a result, would not meet the criteria for reporting a missing individual.

This issue could potentially leave certain adults with a developmental disability without the appropriate protections.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.