



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:

Government and Veterans Affairs
Judiciary

March 12, 2025

Testimony HB1485

Representative Carrie McLeod, District 45

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB1485 today. I am Representative Carrie McLeod from District 45, located in north Fargo and West Fargo north of Main Avenue. District 45 also includes the communities of Harwood, Argusville and Gardner.

HB1485 began with a request from a North Dakota citizen who was concerned about the resources of her loved one who was beginning to require long term care services. Her loved one is a veteran and has a veteran's disability. Along the journey that brought us to this bill, we have learned about current services, and the need to do more to support our elderly population and our veterans.

I learned from one of the individuals who will testify today that when there is a need for long term care for a loved one, resources can be quickly diminished, and even the veteran's disability benefit can be taken from the individual when they enter a Medicaid program.

I reached out to Veteran's Affairs and to the Long-Term Care leadership; to find that we must work with our federal delegation regarding the veteran's disability benefit. I also learned that we could make a difference through the long-term care and the personal needs allowance for eligible beneficiaries, and that has brought us to the bill before you.

While consulting with leadership from our Long-term Care Association the recommendation was made to increase the current benefit from \$100/month to \$110/month, and to add a provision for a yearly cost of living adjustment. Currently, there is no cost-of-living adjustment.

There is testimony on file from individuals who have shared what it will mean to them to have this additional \$10/month increase. There is a fiscal note attached to this bill. You will note on page 2 of the FN that there is a breakdown by facilities for the benefit. These amounts are for the biennium.

Madame Chair and Members of the Human Services Committee, I stand before you today asking for your support of HB1485.

Thank you.