



# Protection & Advocacy Project

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Judiciary Committee

House Bill 1231- March 10, 2025

Testimony of Brad Peterson P&A Legal Director

Greetings Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Brad Peterson I'm the Legal Director 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 a do pass of HB 1231. This bill allows a prescribed legal mechanism for an individual to be removed from the sex offender registration.

P&A has provided technical assistance on an issue relating to a removal of an individual from the sex offender registry due to significant cognitive deterioration since being placed on the registry. In our efforts we learned a person cannot simply petition the court or ask the North Dakota General Office to administratively remove them from the registry. We also learned the individual's registration has had a negative impact on where they can reside to ensure they receive the appropriate care in the least restrictive community-based setting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Peterson

Legal Director

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