

**Testimony**  
**House Bill No. 1066 - Department of Human Services**  
**House Human Services Committee**  
**Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman**  
**January 12, 2021**

Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Rosalie Etherington, Chief Clinics Officer for the Human Service Centers of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here on behalf of the Department to support House Bill 1066, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

We recommend adding language to section 50-06-05.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, reflecting the need for appropriations and resources sufficient to maintain accreditation and to provide authority for the department to use accreditation as a basis for licensing in lieu of adopted rules for the operation of the regional human service centers.

The human service centers, after three years of planning and development, achieved a four-year accreditation through the Council on Accreditation. Accreditation helps organize and strengthen safety and quality of care, treatment, and services. However, this commitment to excellence is labor intensive and requires resources to achieve and maintain. I want to be clear that the requirement for the human service centers to be accredited is not changing with House Bill 1066 and the Department's appropriation, House Bill 1012, accounts for the human service centers to continue with accreditation.

The requested language is similar to existing statutory language for the accreditation of the North Dakota State Hospital and the Life Skills and Transition Center.<sup>1</sup>

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> N.D.C.C Sec. 25-02-01.1 and N.D.C.C. Sec. 25-04-02.1