

House Human Services Committee
Honorable Chairman Weisz
March 3, 2021

Chairman Weisz and other members of the Committee. I am Denise Harvey, Director of Program Services with the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A is an independent state agency that protects people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and advocates for the civil and legal rights of persons with disabilities. This testimony supports Senate Bill 2039.

The current membership of the Brain Injury Advisory Council allows for only one survivor and one family member. Senate Bill 2039 would allow for more representation by survivors of brain injury and family members, and flexibility in increasing this membership. The bill is supportive of the concept of person-centered planning which allows for people with disabilities to make decisions that impact their lives. The bill would also create increased outcomes which are meaningful to survivors of brain injury and family members. We encourage you to support Senate Bill 2039.