

Judith Martin  
328 North 31<sup>st</sup> St. Apt. #11  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-516-3923

Testimony House Bill 1012  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
March 11, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Judith Martin and I am a consumer of The Dakota Center for Independent Living in Bismarck. I am asking you to please consider full funding for the Dakota Center for Independent Living (DCIL) in HB 1012.

Through the Dakota Center for Independent Living I have learned how to maintain a positive attitude. Staff at the center helped me to learn how to live a more independent lifestyle and assisted in preparing a budget that, in the past, had been completely overruled by others. I did have an idea of what my budget would look like, I just needed some money management skills which were provided by staff. I was shown how to seek out coupon savings for over-the-counter medications. I was able to attend Better Choice, Better Health and Pain Management classes through the center. These classes have helped me to understand and manage physical, healthier choices along with managing my long-term health conditions.

DCIL staff has assisted me in getting subsidized medical insurance for myself and which ones were out there for me. I was told, "Yes, you can. Even you can stand up for yourself!" Through DCIL I have learned to become empowered with confidence in speaking up for myself as a person with a disability.

Again, I would ask that you provide full funding to this government agency, the Dakota Center for Independent Living. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith Martin

Deland Decoteau  
1108 Summit Boulevard #4  
Bismarck, ND 58504

Testimony House Bill 1012  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
March 11, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Deland DeCoteau and I am a consumer of The Dakota Center for Independent Living in Bismarck.

Before I came to the DCIL I was lost and hopeless. My physical and mental health were at an all-time low and I was frustrated, empty, and afraid. I felt like I had been abandoned by everyone, that I had nothing to look forward to, and I didn't have any reason for living. That all changed when I became a part of the DCIL. They have provided the support, education, direction, and assurance that I needed to regain my physical and mental health. I was treated with warmth, care, and understanding and I met with staff who helped me to examine and find a positive direction for my life.

DCIL provided classes, training, and activities which helped me to address mental health issues and find peace of mind. I regained contact with survival skills, leisure skills, and activities that brought joy into my heart and hope into my life. I also attended groups and classes which helped me to live a healthy lifestyle and to deal with chronic physical issues. The Staff's appreciation and dedication to each consumer along with the support and social interaction provided by the program has been extremely helpful in my recovery.

I thank you for supporting and funding the DCIL and I look forward to a bright future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deland G. DeCoteau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Deland G. DeCoteau

Testimony house Bill HB 1012

March 11, 2021

Senate Appropriate Committee

Senator Ray Holmberg

Senator Holmberg and Committee my name is Denise Kitson and I am asking you to please restore funding in the HB 1012 for Dakota Center for Independent Living and other CIL'S in ND.

I was in a car accident and suffer from a Traumatic Brain Injury and ever since then I have needed assistance with organizing my home, bills and sometimes daily life struggles. DCIL has assisted me in applications for Medicaid, SNAP, Housing and help me to get out and socialize with others. DCIL has monthly TBI support group, cooking classes, crafts and other activities are available to help me get out into the community. DCIL provides me with encouragement and support I need through my ongoing health risks. Without these resources I do not know where I would be now. Please remember the people who cannot help themselves and the people who are willing to help others.

Sincerely,

Denise Kitson

2817 Hawken St. #3

Bismarck, ND. 58503

701-319-2892

**kathyt@dakotacil.org**

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**From:** Shelly Lanenga <shellylanenga@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:54 AM  
**To:** kathyt@dakotacil.org

Testimony house Bill HB 1012

March 11, 2021

Senate Appropriate Committee

Senator Ray Holmberg

Senator Holmberg and Committee my name is Shelly Lanenga and I am asking you to please restore funding in the HB 1012 for Dakota Center for Independent Living and other CIL'S in ND.

I was in a car accident and suffer from a Traumatic Brain Injury and ever since then I have needed assistance with organizing my home, bills and sometimes daily life struggles. DCIL has assisted me in applications for Medicaid, SNAP, Housing and helped me to get out and socialize with others. DCIL has a monthly TBI support group, cooking classes, crafts and other activities are available to help me get out into the community. DCIL provides me with encouragement and support I need through my ongoing health risks. Without these resources I do not know where I would be now. Please remember the people who cannot help themselves and the people who are willing to help others.

Sincerely,

Shelly Lanenga

Address 703 6th Ave SE, Mandan , ND

Phone # 701-341-0995

**kathyt@dakotacil.org**

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**From:** Tonia Johnston <10angels75@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:14 AM  
**To:** kathyt@dakotacil.org  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 1012 Senate

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Tonia Johnston** <10angels75@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Mar 9, 2021, 12:33 PM  
**Subject:** HB 1012 Senate  
**To:** <ardeenb@dakotacil.org>

HB 1012  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chair

March 11, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Tonia Johnston and I am writing to support bill HB 1012 for funding Dakota Center for Independent Living. I have been with them for almost 13 years now and without their help I would not be where I am today. I have Bipolar Disorder and when I first started with them I refused to stay on my medications, I was required to have a payee by the VA and I was very angry. My mind was not in a good place. I had tremors in my hands and I was trying to take care of my kids. Life was very difficult. I was not able to keep jobs since I was medically discharged from the Navy. DCIL is all about helping you stay independent. They wanted me to be as involved in my budget as I wanted to be. They go above their job because they also helped me to see that I really needed to help myself too. With their support I slowly was able to seek the help I needed through the VA to get therapy and stay on my medication. My mind became clearer and with that I wanted to be more involved with my money. DCIL supported that little by little I was able to take charge of handling my money. I have become very secure in my life now. I have now become my own payee for my social security account and soon I will take over my VA account. It is only because of DCIL that I was able to do that. They helped me not only with managing my money and learning how to handle that but in learning that I am not my disability. I am more than that. I have learned to be okay with the fact that in order to stay healthy mentally I can not work. DCIL also helped me deal with my anxiety with the different activities they offer to people. You never feel judged and can just be yourself. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Tonia Johnston