



HOUSE 1012-DHS BUDGET PUBLIC TESTIMONY FUNDING REQUESTS

HOUSE BILL 1012 – 67TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA

The information provided below was given during public testimony.

The Arc of North Dakota: The Arc of ND is asking for funding for the state hospital. Restore the 11 million for section 11 and continue the Life Skills and Transition Center's downsizing. Contact: Kirsten Dvorak –k.dvorak@thearcofbismarck.org

Designer Genes: Asked for the following Restore \$260,000 (\$100,000 State General Funds and \$160,000 from Federal Part C grant) for Experienced Parent Program. Contact: Roxane Romanick- romanick@bis.midco.net

Family Voices of North Dakota (family Support): Restore the 15% (26,250) to \$175,000 funding. Reinstate experience parent funding, do not move the autism voucher money to the autism waiver. Keep the independent living center funding as it passed in the house. In addition to restoring the North Dakota Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health to \$11,250. Contact Donene Feist- fvnd@drtel.net

North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP):

- Maintenance of the House's restoration of approximately eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) to provider rates for residential habilitation and intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ICFID), but also,

- Maintenance of the Governor's proposed two million, four hundred thousand dollar increase (\$2,400,000) today support services such as individual employment, group employment, and prevocational services, with a matching reduction to Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFID) and residential habilitation;

- Restoration of \$240,000 in funding for mandated DD provider accreditation with the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL);

- Inflationary increases to DD providers of 3% each year of the 2022 - 2023 biennium, especially due to economic and wage pressures in various communities;

- Maintaining the House's appropriation of up to \$250,000 to NDDHS to financially stabilize DD providers disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 emergency — especially In-Home Support providers who suffered the most significant losses;

- Restoration of all cuts to Section 11 State General Fund services to people with DD who don't qualify for the DD Medicaid Waiver;

- Fully fund the 1915(i) Medicaid Amendment with special attention paid to ensure it remains accessible to people with DD/ID, and review of the proposed World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule threshold score of 50 — a very severe score;

- Fully fund reforms and behavioral health initiatives from the Life Skills and Transition Center;

- Retention of a substantial state tax credit to employers who hire North Dakotans with developmental disabilities and mental illness, in HB 1405 (2021). HB 1405 received a unanimous do-pass recommendation from Senate Finance and Taxation Committee on March 9, 2021.

Many members also support the restoration of funding for recreation and leisure centers with consideration of serving additional communities; a close review of the infant development and Part C budgets to ensure timely services can be brought to bear to minimize developmental delays; and strengthening of rates in related home and community-based services to North Dakotans with other kinds of disabilities — QSP services under Aging Services and for brain injury, as well as 1915(i) Medicaid Amendment behavioral health services.

NDACP is persuaded that building a new State Hospital as proposed in HB 1012 makes sense to move more mental health services to the community. It is challenging to move beyond brick and mortar legacies built by generations past, but it is probably time. NDACP Contact Bruce Murry-brucemurry@ndacp.org