



March 10, 2023
House Appropriations – Human Resources Division
Testimony of The North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium

The North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium (NDDAC) is a statewide association of 16 organizations which advocate for public policies to ensure that people with disabilities have the supports and services they need to be as productive and independent as possible. NDDAC's legislative platform is attached for your reference.

NDDAC is here today to ask this committee to include appropriations and legislative intent within SB 2012 to ensure the implementation of recommendations from the Alvarez and Marsal study.

The Alvarez and Marsal (A&M) study was a response to SB 2256 passed by the 67th Legislative Assembly, which brought to light the various challenges people with disabilities and their supporters face when accessing disability services. The A&M report detailed a variety of ways North Dakota can build on its strengths to ensure that services are meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

We believe the first and most essential step to turning this study into action is to streamline access to services by combining or blending waivers to create a cross-disability waiver. We believe a cross-disability waiver has the potential to focus on an individual's need rather than an individual's diagnosis, which will create equity in how North Dakota serves individuals with different developmental disabilities. Furthermore, a cross disability waiver will eliminate service gaps experienced by individuals with disabilities due to age and diagnosis, creating more opportunity for long-term health and wellbeing.

This work was included in HB 1035, which was defeated with an understanding that language would be merged into SB 2012.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT - LEVEL OF CARE REDESIGN - CROSS-DISABILITY CHILDREN'S WAIVER. During the 2023-24 interim, the department of health and human services shall provide periodic reports to the legislative management regarding the developmental disabilities level of care redesign and cross-disability children's waiver, provide de-identified testing data results, and present potential options for next steps and action plans.

NDDAC appreciates the leadership provided by the legislature to ensure the completion of a study on ND's developmental disability services and programs, which gave us a roadmap to improvement and quality. NDDAC now requests that the members of this committee ensure that

the State implements these recommendations by incorporating the needed appropriation and FTEs to ensure that this important work moves forward.

Sincerely,

Julie Horntvedt, Chairperson
North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium
www.nddac.org

