

Chairman Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Nan Kennelly, and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist in Fargo, ND. I am both owner and treating clinician at Onword Therapy, a private practice that specializes in the treatment of cognitive-communication impairments related to brain injury. I am also the current chair of the governor appointed North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council. My testimony today is in support of all individuals and families in North Dakota who are living with brain injury.

House Bill 1418 offers clarification of membership for the North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council. The proposed language in HB 1418 would create two new non-voting positions on the Brain Injury Advisory Council, both a representative from adults and aging services and a brain injury advocacy organization. These positions will broaden the expertise of the advisory council and be in alignment with North Dakota's commitment to the development of a seamless system of care for individuals with brain injury in North Dakota. I would appreciate your support of House Bill 1418 in order to better serve North Dakota residents and families who are living with brain injury.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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