

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY PROJECT

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House Judiciary Committee House Concurrent Resolution 3026 March 1, 2023

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary

Committee, I am Pamela Mack, Director of Advocacy Services with the

Projection & Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A protects the human, civil,

and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and

services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities

where we live, learn, work, and play.

For several years now P&A has worked collaboratively with various entities within North Dakota to include the Department of Corrections, the Department of Human Services, our county jails, and community-based partners to address the high percentage of individuals with disabilities who become involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

In looking at the language in House Concurrent Resolution, P&A strongly supports the proposed study, with an emphasis on re-entry

services and the efforts to address the high percentage of recidivism that we experience within the state. However, this topic is very important, and I would suggest that the Committee consider changing this to a required study and not one that would be considered by Legislative Management.

Thank you so much for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at pmack@nd.gov or by phone at P&A, (701) 328-3975.