



## **SB 2012**

### **Senate Appropriations – Human Resources Division**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

**Senator Dick Dever, Chair**

Chair Dever and Members of the Senate Appropriations – Human Resources Division:

My name is Roxane Romanick and I am writing as the representative for Designer Genes of ND, Inc., as their Executive Director. Designer Genes' membership represents 230 individuals with Down syndrome that either live in our state or are represented by family members in North Dakota. Designer Genes' mission is to strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn, and belong.

Our organization is specifically concerned with funding within the Child and Family Section of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) budget that is targeted to family to family supports. The funding contained in the 2021-2023 budget is contracted to a non-profit partner, Family Voices of North Dakota. Family Voices also serves as our state's Family to Family Health Information Network as well as our Parent-to-Parent organization. We ask that this committee consider the continuation of this funding as a direct flow-through to Family Voices.

Designer Genes values our collaborative partnership with Family Voices. Because of their robust outreach effort, they can easily get information out statewide and can partner on a variety of projects to meet the needs of families. Peer support in the area of families and children with special health care needs and disabilities helps to keep many families emotionally afloat. Family Voices is our go-to organization in North Dakota for this effort. Please consider the continuation of funding to this important family support effort in ND.

Roxane Romanick

Executive Director

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