

Senate Human Services Committee

Madam Chair Lee and other members of the Committee. I am Rebecca Quinn and serve as associate director at the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The Center for Rural Health is contracted by the Department of Health and Human Services to operate the North Dakota Brain Injury Network. My testimony today is on behalf of all the individuals and families impacted by brain injury in North Dakota.

My testimony today is in support of House Bill 1418 which offers clarification of membership for the Brain Injury Advisory Council. The proposed language in HB 1418 would create two new non-voting positions on the Brain Injury advisory council; a representative from adults and aging services and a brain injury advocacy organization. Additionally, the House amended the bill to increase the number of survivors and family members on the council from at least one to at least two and the minimum number on the council from five to eight. The Brain Injury Advisory council respectfully requests an additional amendment increasing the maximum number of voting members on the council from nine to thirteen.

The Advisory Council is in favor of this increase because it will allow for more survivor voices and greater diversity in the representation on the Council. North Dakota was recently awarded a Federal Administration for Community Living brain injury grant. This change would be in line of the requirement of this grant to have at least 50% of a state advisory council be brain injury survivors.

Thank you for your time and I welcome any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Quinn; LMSW, CBIST
Associate Director
Center for Rural Health
1301 N Columbia Road, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037