

Good morning.

For the record I am Senator Randy Lemm from District 20, Hillsboro and I am also on the board of directors for the RRHS foundation

I am here to introduce Senate bill 2215 and we are seeking an appropriation of \$300,000

There are 2 activity centers for people with Intellectual Disabilities, 1 located in Fargo and operated by Red River Human Services and the other in Grand Forks operated by *LISTEN*

The 2 centers are currently receiving \$150,000 per biennium split between the 2 to help with activities such as cooking, safety and gathering with others to socialize, play games and get some exercise. This appropriation was started about <sup>10</sup>~~8~~ years ago. <sup>in 2013</sup> We are looking to increase this amount to \$300,000 per biennium which would amount to \$75,000 per year to each of the 2 centers.

Red River Human Services is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to help Intellectually disabled individuals with life skills such as cooking and cleaning, safety and generally caring for themselves.

They help provide food and medicine.

In the last year they lost about \$60,000 in funding from United Way when United Way shifted their focus from the Intellectually Disabled to suicide prevention.

There are currently about 425 people in the activity center program.