

## **Senate Human Services**

### **SB2276**

**January 23, 2023**

Senator Lee and members of the committee. My name is Julie Horntvedt and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council). The Council was established through the Developmental Disabilities Act (P.L. 106-402) and is funded by the federal government. Councils are uniquely composed of individuals with developmental disabilities, parents, family members of people with developmental disabilities, and representatives of State agencies that administer funds under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities, and local and nongovernmental agencies. Members of a Council are appointed by our State's Governor.

One area of our work is to promote system-wide changes that result in long-term positive impact on the capacity of individuals with developmental disabilities to lead meaningful lives in their home communities. We believe this action fits within the goal of this bill and why we are in favor of SB2276. Promoting home-based services, financial assistance, and respite care so families can provide the level of care they need for their loved one at home is essential. We face a workforce shortage crisis, families to be unstable if they cannot work, and are at risk of more institutionalizations of individuals with disabilities if they can't be served at home. This bill is a demonstration of a new approach to service that will benefit the person receiving services as well as their family member.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Horntvedt

[jhorntvedt@nd.gov](mailto:jhorntvedt@nd.gov)

701-328-4847