

**TESTIMONY**  
**SENATE BILL 2332 – HOSPICE OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY**  
**SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**SENATOR JUDY LEE, CHAIRPERSON**  
**JANUARY 25, 2023**

Chairperson Lee and distinguished members of the Senate Human Services Committee, for the record my name is Stephen P. Astrup, Regulatory and Project Counsel for Hospice of the Red River Valley (“HRRV”) and I am joined by my colleagues Tracee Capron, Executive Director for HRRV; Dr. Tracie Mallberg, Chief Medical Officer for HRRV; Brenda Iverson, Director of Community Relations and Marketing for HRRV; and Theresa Stahl, Director of Finance for HRRV. We are here today to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2332 and ask that you give this bill a **DO PASS** recommendation.

While hospice utilization and other healthcare utilizations vary across the United States, North Dakota continually ranks near the bottom in most areas. We have and continue to work tirelessly to reduce health disparities in North Dakota as it relates to hospice care and healthcare services.

Over the past decade or more, our patient populations have changed drastically. We serve patients and families across North Dakota’s comprehensive continuum of care and support patients and families right of choice – including where a patient wishes to call home. Additionally, we are fiercely protective of the quality of care provided to patients.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Should you have questions subsequent to today’s hearing, please feel free to contact me via phone at (701) 356-1522 or via email at [stephen.astrup@hrrv.org](mailto:stephen.astrup@hrrv.org)