



SB 2224
Senate Judiciary
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Senator Diane Larson, Chair

Madam Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

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 primarily concerned with Sections 6 and 7 of the proposed legislation. If the bill passes, these sections would allow families of minor children with significant disabilities like Down syndrome to file a petition for guardianship prior to the youth's 18th birthday so that there would be no gap in decision-making. Many families worry about the timing of the guardianship appointments per our current practices. We ask for your "do pass" consideration of SB 2224 to eliminate this worry for families.

Roxane Romanick
Executive Director
Designer Genes of ND, Inc.
701-391-7421
info@designergenesnd.com