

Senate Transportation Testimony SB 4004

My name is Darcy Andahl and I am testifying in support of Bill No. 4004 to study the transportation needs for individuals with disabilities and the elderly in our state.

I am a person living in Bismarck (in District 35) and I have a disability. The biggest problem I have with para transit services is the waiting time. I end up waiting a long time for rides and being picked up to return home, it makes me feel that I am not important. Paratransit will only wait for me for five minutes to get to my ride. I have missed my rides. Also, waiting to be picked up can be several hours. I have finished medical appointments at 2:30 p.m. and I didn't get picked up until 6 p.m. Because of this, I am now avoiding taking transit services because it is not reliable. Since I won't take the service, I am now stuck at home. It's too cold for me to be stuck outside.

To apply for paratransit services, you must fill out a long application which is difficult for people with disabilities. I have been to transit meetings and expressed my concerns in the past. I don't feel like I'm being heard. We also don't have a reliable taxi service in our town. It's not just paratransit, but it's taxis, and the bus routes change so I can't get a ride close to home. Our transportation system needs to be looked at; I am in support of this bill to help all people using public transportation.

Please contact me with any questions.

Darcy Andahl

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Testimony Talking Points – Individuals Who Support, But Don't Have Direct Lived Experience

Name

Where you live

Voting district

I am testifying in support of Bill No. _____ for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to legally responsible individuals providing Medicaid waiver services.

Your story

- Why are you in support of this bill?
- Who do you know that could benefit?

How a lack of service providers has impacted those who you know are experiencing hardship

- Lack of daycare
- Workforce issues/staff availability
- Quality of available workforce

The positive effects that families as paid service providers would have on those experiencing hardship

- Keep family unit intact
- Close the workforce gap
- Consistency and quality of care
- Are siblings in the home providing care?

Thank you for your time serving our state and for listening/reading my testimony. I urge you to vote yes on Bill No. _____ and for it to go into effect July 1, 2023. Families are in crisis, they need help now.

Name

Email

Phone number