

My name is Julie Horntvedt and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council).

The DD Council supports a statewide self-advocacy group called Advocates Leading their Lives (ALL). Members are from all around the state. Members come to Bismarck quarterly for training and education to learn about public policy, services, and systems and to grow their voices. Many members come from all over the state, and the DD council contracts with different taxi vendors in Bismarck to provide rides (with accessible and regular vans) for our members across the state as needed so they can participate, as many don't drive. One roundtrip is \$440.

Thankfully, the Council can cover the cost because, without it, Members would not be able to attend. People want to come, but not having reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation is a significant barrier to attending ALL meetings.

The ALL-group's number one priority is transportation, as you can see on the attached document for this legislative session. "All supports improved public and private options for accessible, affordable transportation. Transportation remains the #1 priority." As you can see, studying is essential to the group and their work.

If you have any further questions, I would be happy to answer them.

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