

Testimony
House Bill 1012
January 27, 2025

My name is Julianne Horntvedt and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am submitting testimony on behalf of our Advocacy Committee.

A few comments about HB1012:

- 1) We are glad to see the Governor's budget request for continued support of the Cross Disability Waiver. We feel that this is an important step to provide support to individuals and families who may "fall through the cracks" of the current waiver system
- 2) We support the continued funding for Family Voices of ND. Their support to families in this state is unmatched and we often refer calls we receive to them for parent support, to provide information on waiver services, ABLE accounts, trainings, etc.
- 3) We have concern about the decrease in the budget for the Autism Waiver. With families already on a waitlist, a cut to funding will provide less support to those who need services. We realize the staffing shortage is a real crisis, perhaps we can be creative about how we recruit/train/and retain staff in the state so they can provide the needed support so more individuals can utilize services.
- 4) We have concern about the decrease in funding to the FASD Center at UND. The Council has chosen Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder as our targeted disparity group in our current 5-year plan. This means we have dedicated resources in different ways to provide education, training, and awareness to families, educators, foster parents, state staff, etc. We hope to see this funding restored so individuals and families have a place to go for diagnosis and support.

Sincerely,

Julianne Horntvedt

701-328-4847

jhorntvedt@nd.gov