

House Appropriations, HR Section

House Bill 1012

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Chairman Nelson and members of the committee,

My name is Brooke Austin, and I am the Executive Director at Community Living Services, Inc. (CLS), a non-profit organization providing community-based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1012.

I respectfully request your support for reimbursement rate adjustments that will significantly benefit services for people with disabilities. A proposed increase of 4% and 3% would enhance providers' ability to recruit, retain, and train qualified employees. Without these adjustments, providers may struggle to maintain current service levels and could be forced to decline new referrals, leaving vulnerable North Dakotans without the supports they need.

Additionally, I urge your support for increasing reimbursement rates to 100% for Residential Habilitation and ICF Services. Full reimbursement is essential for sustaining these critical services and ensuring providers can continue delivering care without financial strain.

The individuals who rely on support services to live and work independently within their communities deserve access to consistent, high-quality care. I strongly encourage your support of these rate changes so that CLS and other providers can continue to fulfill our mission of serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brooke Austin  
Executive Director  
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