

February 4th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a consumer that has/is using the North Dakota Transition and Diversion Pilot Project (formerly ADRL) with Options Center for Independent Living.

When starting the grant, I was learning how to navigate my life with my new amputation. I had close friends build a ramp with wood planks for me to get into my home and a lift to get out of bed made out of rope. Although I appreciated this it was not safe. My transition coordinator and team were able to assist me in getting a ramp and lifts for my home. My whole life has been changed by being able to get up and move around in and out of the house. I am able to have my caregiver assist me with the lift in my restroom to take a bath. It's the things you do every day that you don't realize how much they are affected with a new disability.

After a few months I found out that I would be needing a second leg amputation. Although this was new I knew I still had the assistance of my transition coordinator to help navigate this change. My transition coordinator was able to get me a lift chair so I could sit in the living room with my wife as I used to. I was given a wheel chair cushion to be comfortable outside my bed. Additionally, I was supplied with many cleaning supplies so my caregiver can keep my environment clean.

Because of my involvement in the grant and my transition coordinator I am able to stay independent at home. Without the help from my transition coordinator I would be in a facility and not be able to be around my family which is most important to me.

Consumers would like to receive services in their home rather than an institutional setting and the North Dakota Transition and Diversion Pilot Project can assist with that. Please support HB 1012 for continued funding for NDTDPP and allow consumers to live independently.

Sincerely,

Darryl LaPorte