

House Appropriations, HR Section

House Bill 1012

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Chairman Nelson and members of the committee,

My name is Carley Randall, and I am the Program Coordinator of Triumph, Inc. in Jamestown ND. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of HB 1012.

I am writing to express my support to improve the quality, access, and sustainability of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who rely on critical services and supports of provider organizations across the state.

1. Inflationary Increase of 4% and 3%

It is essential to ensure that reimbursement rates are adjusted to account for inflation. An increase of 4% and 3% will help providers manage rising costs while continuing to offer high-quality services to those in need. Without these adjustments, the ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, as well as maintain service levels, is at serious risk. This increase aligns with the federal inflation levels for the previous two years.

2. Increase Reimbursement Rates on ICF and Res Hab to 100%

3. Remove the Requirement for Accreditation

I am writing this from both personal and professional experience. I grew up with my uncle Kelly Halvorson, AKA The Thunderman, who had Cerebral Palsy. His legs did not work but his personality could fill up an entire room. My entire life, I watched him struggle both financially and with services in home to assist him. Kelly was an avid sports fan and lived most of his adult life in Grand Forks, ND where he attended every UND game he could. He was well known on campus for his larger than life personality and love for all sports. Kelly has since passed away from complications for Cerebral Palsy. Governor Doug Bergum and his wife attended Kelly's (The Thunderman's) funeral. He was an advocate for himself and others with disabilities, so much so that it caught the attention of Governor Doug Bergum. My passion for supporting individuals with disabilities came from my uncle Kelly Halvorson. His passion was contagious and he lit my fire to advocate for people with disabilities. I work tirelessly to provide quality and meaningful supports to the individuals I serve at Triumph, Inc. I will stop at nothing to ensure that individuals live a quality and meaningful life. We serve the most vulnerable population in North Dakota. It is incredibly frustrating that the most vulnerable population has to fight for absolutely everything in their lives, including services. Our jobs are important, and we do amazing things to ensure that our individuals are living their best lives. It is unfortunate that we have to fight tooth and nail to receive funding to support the most vulnerable population. I respectfully ask that we get the increase in funding that is being requested to ensure we have proper staffing to support our individuals to live their best lives. Our agency went through the accreditation process, while there is significant value in this accreditation process, it is

an unreasonable financial burden on agencies. The money it costs for accreditation could be used for pay raises for staff who work tirelessly to ensure that our individuals are living their best most independent lives

In conclusion, I urge you to support these items to strengthen the services and supports on which so many individuals and families depend.

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