



HB 1014

**House Appropriations – Human Resources Division
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
Representative Jon Nelson, Chairperson**

Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations – Human Resources Division:

My name is Roxane Romanick and I'm representing Designer Genes of North Dakota, Inc. Designer Genes' membership represents individuals with Down syndrome and their families across the state of North Dakota. Designer Genes' mission is to strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn, and belong.

I am in support of HB 1014, North Dakota Protection and Advocacy's budget. North Dakota Protection and Advocacy is invaluable to our organization and to those that live with Down syndrome and other disabilities in our state. They provide critically needed, case specific advocacy to individuals who have experienced rights violations and are in need of advocacy. From a broader view, their programmatic and system advocacy is helpful to ensure quality lives in the community. Protection and Advocacy has been a collaborative partner on helping to educate our membership and those that support individuals with disabilities.

I have had the opportunity to work with many of the staff at North Dakota Protection and Advocacy on both case-specific situations and systems improvement work. Both have been important in making sure that individuals with disabilities' rights have been protected. Their work on educating the disability community about legislative action, opportunities for public comment, and disability rights would be sorely missed if North Dakota did not adequately fund North Dakota Protection and Advocacy.

Thank you.

Roxane Romanick
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