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House Education Committee

House Bill 1160 - January 15, 2025

Pamela Mack, P&A Director of Program Services

Greetings Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Pamela Mack and I am a Program Director with the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A is an independent state agency established in 1977 to assert and advance the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work, and play.

My comments today regarding HB 1160 are offered specific to this legislation's impact on students with disabilities. Students with disabilities often use a cellular telephone, tablet, and/or laptop for effective methods of communication, symptom management, and connectivity to those who can provide emotional or other means of support. Technology is often the only means that a student has to interact with others and participate within the classroom setting and school. This need to allow for this accommodation is required by both the Americans with Disabilities Act¹ and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act².

P&A recommends that language be added to the bill to ensure that any policy or practice adopted by a school district provides for the exception regarding disability-related accommodations and support for students with disabilities.

¹ [Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

² [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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