

Testimony on Personal Needs allowance amount for eligible individuals  
House Human Services Committee  
January 29, 2025  
House Bill 1485

Chair ---- and the House Services Committee, my name is Sandy Fischer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written testimony on House Bill 1485, A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries – specifically 6. Provide a monthly personal needs allowance; to be reviewed and adjusted annually based on inflation, in an amount no less than one hundred ten dollars.

I am a resident at Baptist Health & Rehab, a long-term care center located in Bismarck, ND. I have lived there since May 2012. Prior to an accident that placed my needs for skilled living services, I was the Director of Nursing at Baptist for nine years. I understand the needs of the residents and the needs for myself.

Currently, Medicaid recipients, such as I am, only get \$100 per month to spend on ourselves. This can be used for clothes, or other things that we want or need, such as cable TV, or if we want any certain snacks that the facility does not provide.

Personally, I like a special toothpaste as well as flossers that Baptist does not provide to the residents. At this time, I cannot purchase this item but with the extra \$10 per month, I could do that.

I also like to buy cards that I send to my family to stay in touch with during special days and holidays. I purchase the cards and stamps from the business office at Baptist.

While I get the local TV stations in my room, I pay for cable, as I depend on national media outlets to stay informed with the bigger picture of what is going on across our state and nation.

My family has to pitch in from time to time to buy things for myself that I cannot afford to purchase. While a move from \$100 to at least \$110 does not seem like a lot, to those of us that rely on the this process, an extra \$10 (minimally, annually with regards to inflation) is truly the difference in allowing us a bit of freedom to be self-sufficient and a bit of dignity to provide a bit more for ourselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting an adjustment in the personal needs allowance.



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