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House Human Services Committee

House Bill 1485 - January 29, 2025

Testimony of Pamela Mack, P&A Director of Program Services

Greetings Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Pamela Mack and I am a Program Director at 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.

I am here today in support of House Bill 1485 which would increase the personal needs allowance for individuals with disabilities who live in institutions and facilities through an annual inflationary increase. Historically people with disabilities have been very limited to the amount of personal spending money that they can keep from their social security when they reside in a facility. The efforts that the legislature has taken to supplement this are a significant benefit to residents.

I would like to offer a consideration for the Committee and suggest adding language regarding how the inflationary increase will occur on an annual basis. One consideration would be to utilize the [consumer price index inflation calculator](#) so that a consistent and standardized method of calculation is used from year to year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pamela Mack
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