



**House Human Services  
HB 1548  
January 28, 2025**

Chairperson Rep. Ruby and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kirsten Dvorak, and I represent The Arc of North Dakota, an organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). For 65 years, we have advocated for inclusive services that empower individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, independent lives in their communities.

I am submitting this written testimony to express our opposition to House Bill 1548, which allocates \$10 million to build a fitness center at the Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC). While the goal of enhancing recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities is commendable, we believe this funding would be better spent on supporting broader community inclusion efforts.

The recent census shows that LSTC serves fewer than 50 residents with access to amenities, including a pool area. Building a new fitness center would duplicate resources for a small population instead of addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities throughout the state.

The Arc of North Dakota strongly supports community integration as a cornerstone of modern disability services. Investing in inclusive, community-based fitness and recreational facilities would create equitable opportunities for individuals with disabilities while encouraging full social participation. The proposed funding for an institution-based facility contradicts this vision and diverts resources from initiatives that could benefit a broader audience. We respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the allocation of funds in House Bill 1548 and instead prioritize investments that promote community inclusion and support for individuals with disabilities throughout North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Kirsten Dvorak  
Executive Director  
The Arc of North Dakota  
701-222-1854