



**House Human Services
HB 1567
January 27, 2025**

Chairperson Rep. Ruby and Members of the Committee,

I am Kirsten Dvorak, executive director of The Arc of North Dakota, writing to express our support for House Bill 1567. For 65 years, The Arc has been advocating for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in North Dakota, working to ensure they have access to the services and support necessary to lead meaningful and independent lives.

The Arc of North Dakota strongly supports House Bill 1567, which aims to address the critical issue of dental care access for individuals with developmental disabilities by creating a study to evaluate current challenges and identify solutions. Individuals with disabilities face significant barriers to dental care, such as transportation challenges, a shortage of trained providers, and inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates.

This study is an essential step toward understanding and addressing these barriers. It will help explore solutions like improved reimbursement rates, enhanced provider education, and telehealth options, which are vital for ensuring access to essential dental care for all North Dakotans, including those with developmental disabilities.

We urge the committee to support HB 1567 and this crucial effort to improve oral health care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Kirsten Dvorak
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