



Protection & Advocacy Project

400 E. Broadway, Suite 409

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-328-2950

1-800-472-2670

TTY: 711

www.ndpanda.org



House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

House Bill 1610- February 4, 2025

Testimony of Brad Peterson P&A Legal Director

Greetings Chairman Warrey and members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee. My name is Brad Peterson and I'm the Legal 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.

Protection and Advocacy supports the passage of HB 1610 as it allows tenants economic options to pay their rent without fear of having additional fees placed upon them. This is especially important to individuals who are accessing housing assistance to supplement their rental costs. Adding additional fees to their rent results in their housing costs exceeding the allowable amount of benefits that can be utilized for this purpose. Not all tenants who reside in rental properties have the capability to pay their rent with just one method and they should not incur additional costs if an alternative method is needed.

Further, we would request this Committee consider in its deliberations to include mobile home parks from assessing fees for accepting check or other instrument of payment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Peterson

Legal Director

brapeterson@nd.gov