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House Judiciary Committee
House Bill 1166 - January 13, 2025
Testimony of Brad Peterson P&A Legal Director

Greetings Chairman Klemin and members of the Judiciary 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.

We request a Do Pass on HB 1166. It is not uncommon for a person with mental illness or a disability to have a criminal record for very minor events, unfortunately no matter how minor the criminal record, it likely impacts a person's access to housing and employment or other services.

The passage of HB 1166 would allow an individual better inclusion in their communities by removing unnecessary barriers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Peterson
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