



# Protection & Advocacy Project

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Judiciary Committee

House Bill 1231 - January 20, 2025

Testimony of Brad Peterson P&A Legal Director

Greetings Chairman Klemin and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Brad Peterson I'm the Legal Director 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.

P&A is in support of a do pass of HB 1231. This bill allows a prescribed legal mechanism for an individual to be removed from the sex offender registry.

P&A has provided technical assistance on an issue relating to a removal of an individual from the sex offender registry due to significant cognitive deterioration since being placed on the registry. In our efforts we learned a person cannot simply petition the court or ask the North Dakota Attorney General to administratively remove them from the registry. We also learned the individual's registration negatively impacted them on where they can reside and receive appropriate care in the least restrictive community-based setting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Peterson

Legal Director

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