

HB 1012
3-17-25

Carl Young carl@fasdnd.com Mar 17, 2025

Good morning.

Senator Dever, members of the committee, my name is Carl Young, I am the Executive Director of the Family Services Network here in Bismarck. My organization serves all areas of the state.

Today, I am here to ask for your support.

In 1993 the ND Legislature created the FAS Center at UND.

When the Department of Health and Human Services put in their budget request last year, they cut the funding for the center from their budget. Reportedly it was transferred to the University budget. Now, I am told it resides in Public Health.

The gentleman running the center, Dr. Larry Burd, is retiring from clinic work. That means a replacement will need to be found to continue the work he is doing. In today's political and economic times, that will likely be expensive.

I am aware, through the auspices of the Bismarck Tribune, that the revenue forecast for the state is not as "rosy" as it once was. In view of that, it is my hope that you will leave the budget figure at the level it is at currently. It is also my understanding that the current amount listed in the budget is something like 859,000 dollars. For cost reference related to other disorders I welcome you to review page five of the document I gave you. This information was compiled by Dr. Burd at the Center.

Now, I don't know what all is paid for out of those dollars, however in addition to clinic work, I'd like to see a study done on our prison and jail system here in North Dakota. What percentage of the population has some level of FASD?

There are four primary levels under the FASD.

FAS - pFAS - ARND - ARBD

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome - Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome - Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder - Alcohol Related Birth Defects.

Most of us with the disorder struggle with Adaptive Life Skills. Most will struggle with Executive Function. Most will also struggle with understanding Cause and Effect. Without a proper diagnosis, which is a complicated process, they can't get the support they need to live life outside prison or institution level care.

Please keep the funding for the center intact.