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Education Committee

SCR 4019 - February 11, 2025

Testimony of Brenda Ruehl, P&A Director Program and Service

Greetings Chairman Beard and members of the Education Committee. My name is Brenda Ruehl and I'm a Director Program Services 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.

P&A supports a Do Pass of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4019.

A study to examine proficiency and disparities in mathematics and reading in students with disabilities, students who live in poverty, and Native American students is needed. These students begin their educational career with barriers due to their disabilities and economic disenfranchisements. Furthermore, Native American children are twice as likely to be impacted by poverty. These factors continue throughout their education and create disparities in their reading and math outcomes, which then increase barriers as they struggle to be successful in their adult lives.

We urge a Do Pass on this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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