

**Testimony Relating to Rights of Health Care Facility Residents**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**January 14, 2025**  
**Senate Bill 2070**

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Jim Cornelius and I am the administrator at Benedictine Living Community | Wahpeton in Wahpeton. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2070.

We provide a continuum of care including: Skilled Nursing Facility, Assisted Living, Basic Care and Home Health service in rural North Dakota, while some communities have unlimited options to choose from for a physician or a pharmacist services, Wahpeton has limited opportunity for the residents to meet the requirements in implementing these initiatives in the updated health care facility rights. We give each person the opportunity to utilize any of the four pharmacies in our community, but two will provide 24 hours a day- 7 days a week service, the other two may and may not provide weekend services if needed.

I do oppose the Section 2. Amendment 50-10.2-02 Residents' Rights – Implementation "s." The right to a pharmacist of resident's choice and to not be charged for the type of medication distribution system used by the facility. In Wahpeton, one of four pharmacies will take other pharmacies medications and package them to our system, so that won't give them a choice in our community. Plus, the pharmacy is reluctant to card some other pharmacies medications, so that leaves us with medications in bottles that would leave is vulnerable to many

medication errors with the meds not in our medication distribution system. You need to understand rural towns in North Dakota don't have many choices for physicians and pharmacists, so please don't limit us, when we, as the provider, don't have choices either.

We respectfully urge the committee to consider these concerns and allow us time to collaborate with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman to try and reach consensus so we can ensure that any changes to the law are tailored to the unique needs of all of the care settings covered in this section. Thank you for your consideration.

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