

**SB 2140**  
**Senate Human Services**  
**Testimony Presented by Scott Bernstein, NCG**  
**Executive Director of Guardian and Protective Services**  
**January 14, 2025**

Chairperson Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Scott Bernstein, Executive Director of Guardian and Protective Services and I also serve on the Guardianship Association of North Dakota board.

Succinctly and to the point: I stand in support of SB 2140. That could be the end of my testimony but allow me to weave an acknowledgement and thank you into this support.

As you can imagine, many of our clients, under guardianship, are people with multiple co-morbidities. However, often all these co-morbidities are anchored on one life altering diagnosis. Alzheimer's or some form of cognitive impairment in all its various iterations.

I became a part of the Alzheimer's Association MANY years ago when I stepped into my role as an Executive Director of a memory care in Minnesota. At that time the Association could host a banquet sitting in a small room with just a few round tables. We knew there was a Tsunami coming but I don't think any of us at the banquet could fully imagine the magnitude of the implications.

I returned to North Dakota and quickly discovered that the North Dakota Legislature, with amazing wisdom and foresight had contracted with the Alzheimer's Association to provide Statewide services. I was thrilled beyond belief. At that point, I was the Executive Director at a brand-new Edgewood property. Guess who I had do all my staff dementia training? Guess who I called in to do my family consults?

With a degree of pride, I can say North Dakota was an early adopter to addressing a growing need through a remarkable Government Nonprofit partnership...and you left Minnesota in the dust. My thanks and gratitude go out to those legislators with a vision to open the door for North Dakotan's to receive gold standard information and resources.

Thank you for listening and I'm happy to answer any questions.