

Senate Human Services  
Senate Bill 2192  
Monday, January 20, 2025

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I'm Angela Dinius, the executive director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP). Our members are 31 of the organizations across the state that provide essential services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We appreciate the introduction of this bill. We support this bill and would like to offer a few suggestions.

We ask the committee to eliminate the mandate for accreditation and make it optional. While accreditation can enhance service quality, it is an unfunded mandate that places a significant financial and administrative burden on the providers.

If the committee chooses to retain mandatory accreditation, we ask the state to fully fund the cost. The proposed allocation of \$240,000 in this bill is an important step, but additional funds may be necessary for the full obligation.

We would like to address a significant concern regarding the scope of accreditation. In the past when the state covered the accreditation costs, only the DD services were accredited. However, when organizations are required to cover the cost of accreditation, the accrediting companies require that the entire organization be accredited, including non-DD services. For example, some providers also run nursing homes or provide mental health services. DD accreditation does not fit with those services. This also adds unnecessary expenses for the organization. If the state covers accreditation costs again, accrediting entities would limit their accreditation to the organization's DD services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for considering our recommendations. I am happy to answer any questions.

Angela Dinius  
ND Association of Community Providers