

Testimony in Support of SB2305
2025 Legislative Session
January 24, 2025

Senator Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Trevor Vannett and I live in Bismarck.

I am in support of SB 2305 for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-47 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the family paid caregiver service program and the cross-disability advisory council.

This bill is important because it lessens the impact of institutionalizing individuals with disabilities, a cost that far exceeds the cost of supporting caregivers in their homes. Studies have shown that family caregiving is not only more affordable, but it can also improve the quality of life for the individuals being cared for. Children, adults, and elderly individuals with disabilities are more likely to thrive in a familiar environment, benefiting from the emotional stability and personal connection that only a family member can provide.

Furthermore, a paid family caregiver program can help families sustain their own health and well-being. Many caregivers suffer from physical and emotional exhaustion due to the overwhelming demands placed on them, and financial compensation could reduce stress and burnout, making it easier for caregivers to provide better, more consistent care. This, in turn, benefits the individuals receiving care, who are more likely to experience positive outcomes when their caregivers are physically and emotionally healthy.

Finally, this program would send a powerful message that our state values and recognizes the critical role that family caregivers play. It acknowledges that caregiving is work and that it deserves compensation. It is an investment in the health and well-being of families, communities, and the state as a whole.

For all these reasons, I strongly support the paid family caregiver program. It is an investment in families, in individuals with exceptional needs, and in the overall well-being of our state. I urge you to act in favor of this program and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who are providing essential care to their loved ones.

Sincerely,
Trevor Vannett
701-955-0000