

Adrienne Montonye
Regarding SB 2305
1/25/2024

My name is Adrienne Montonye. Today I speak as the sister of Amanda Burner who received benefits by participating in the pilot program that is up for vote: SB 2305. I am testifying in favor of continuation of this program as I have seen the gift of the program transform the household of my sister and her family as caregivers to my 22-year-old nephew, Kaden. The program does something unique for the hard-working families dedicated to giving the best possible care to our community of profound special needs men and women. It is an extreme point of pride of this North Dakota citizen that there is a program offered in our state to benefit the community of people who often do the hardest and kindest work for our fellow citizens.

I want to testify about what this program is already doing for my sister and her family. The program gives support and acknowledgement of their lifelong dedication to caregiving. The unmatched quality of care for my nephew Kaden and citizens with special needs comes best from a family that has spent every day caring for and being active in his treatment. My nephew, who has Leukodystrophy, has spent his life in the loving care of his family. When I asked my sister what specifically about this program was helpful she said, "It just brings so much peace to not have to think about finances. The house just feels more peaceful, and I feel more at ease." This program takes the worry of money away and allows her to free her mind and focus on Kaden's cares entirely. She no longer has to split her mind into work life and home cares. Where before this program she could only be employed with places that could work with an unpredictable home situation, she now can excel in her role as caregiver because she is employed as caregiver to her son and she can put her efforts fully into the work she is fully invested in and an expert in.

Please vote yes. Make North Dakotans proud of what our State does for our most profound special needs citizens!

Thank you for hearing this testimony. I appreciate your thought and care in deciding your vote on this issue.