



Senate Health and Human Services
SB 23052193
January 23, 2023

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Kirsten Dvorak, Executive Director of The Arc of North Dakota, supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1958. We empower families and foster inclusive communities throughout the state. I stand in support of Senate Bill No. 2305.

The 2023 FINDS (Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports) Community Report, conducted by the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota in collaboration with The Arc of the United States, highlights significant challenges faced by families across the nation:

- Financial Strain: 41% have left their jobs to provide care. Many families struggle to afford the long-term caregiving required.
- Service Availability: Many individuals with disabilities are on waiting lists for essential services. This situation dramatically strains families, often leading to substantial personal expenses.
- Caregiving Responsibilities: Family caregivers dedicate over 40 hours each week to care, profoundly impacting their health and capacity to maintain employment.

At The Arc of North Dakota, we recognize the significance of lifelong care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. However, we also understand that not all families possess the resources to meet these needs. While compensating family caregivers is essential, it should not replace comprehensive support systems. Therefore, we are dedicated to advocating for policies that provide financial assistance, home-based services, and respite care. Additionally, investing in community support is crucial to strengthen the overall network available to families. These initiatives empower families to deliver high-quality care while safeguarding their overall well-being.

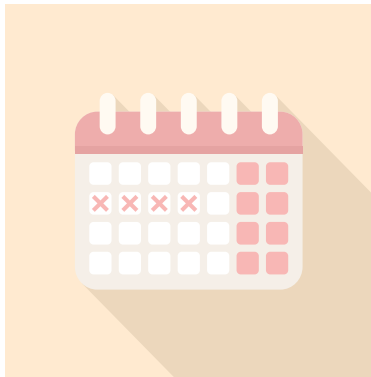
Helping families is important for enabling individuals with disabilities to receive the necessary care and support. Approving this bill offers families a vital choice to guarantee their loved ones get consistent and compassionate care. On behalf of The Arc of North Dakota and the families we assist, I encourage you to support Senate Bill No. 2305.

An infographic from The Arc of North Dakota's 2025 Data Book is also included for your reference

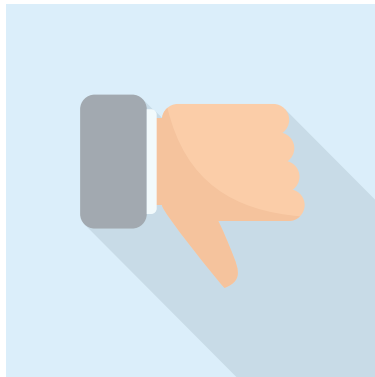
I am available for any questions.

The full FINDS Community Report can be accessed [HERE](https://thearc.org/resource/finds-community-report-2023-family-individual-needs-for-disability-supports/)
<https://thearc.org/resource/finds-community-report-2023-family-individual-needs-for-disability-supports/>

Sincerely,
Kirsten Dvorak
Executive Director, The Arc of North Dakota



47%
Taking a leve of
absence



17%
Turning down a
promotion



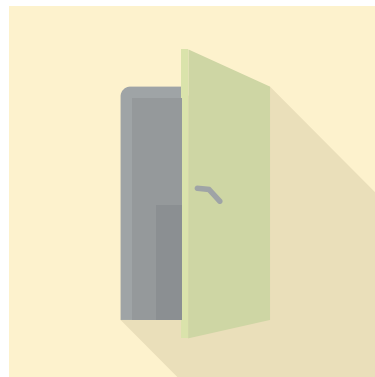
77%
Going to work late
or leaving early



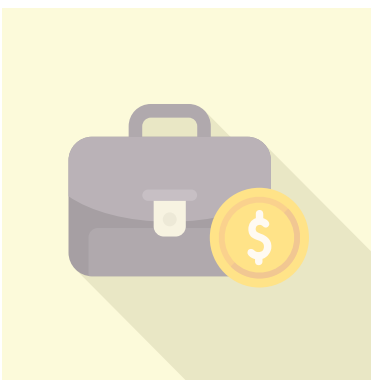
59%
Cutting back
their hours



36%
Warnings about
attendance



48%
Giving up work
entirely



59%
Purposely
Underemployed

The Arc of the United States,
2023