

I would encourage a DO PASS recommendation on SB2316. I have a broad spectrum of experience the last three decades in the fields of addiction, social work, insurance, long term care, working with the disabled, advocacy, and now representation. I respect what it takes to represent in an elected seat as we take on more responsibility than what we carry as we are born with.

North Dakota has had a long uncomfortable history of care to meet the needs of citizens within all of the pressures that the world relentlessly throws at us. In the early 1900's resources at best were scarce, norms of the day led to many misunderstandings and many needs were all addressed the same way with large institutions that were understaffed. Within the resources available right decisions were silenced by significant wrongs that happened in places like the now destroyed San Haven.

Bumpy histories have also followed many programs we continue to try to improve on today, but it comes as a heavy cost. It does not help that the needs and norms of society are able to change at a much faster rate than anything we come up with to address them. That is why SB2316 is before you.

We have had a lot of time, money and effort put into centralizing care and yet we also have a long history of knowing the good and bad consequences of how that impacts our topographically large state. Breaking the resources up into regional areas takes a lot of stress off the citizens and allows families to stay connected to loved ones without adding expensive travel and time onto the plate of caring for their loved ones. I know families that plan trips to visit loved ones and when we have a storm it is six months to a year before they can accrue vacation time to make their next attempt to visit. More often than not, families become disconnected as the outside world demands life lived be at a much faster rate than the life of people receiving services for physical and mental challenges.

Since the pandemic, the term ventilator has become a part of the normal conversation when people have coffee and talk about healthcare. Our resources and how the medical system views this care still seems to be pre-pandemic and for many it is causing challenges. I personally know people that have been sent to Portland, Chicago,