

January 31, 2021
Testimony on HB 1012

Dear Chairman Nelson,

As I was out of the state last week (on vacation) and missed public testimony on HB 1012, I hope that you will still take a moment to read my letter in opposition to many parts of HB1012. Cutting funding and therefore, cutting services to the people of ND, is unbelievable to me.

I have a 28-year-old daughter who survived a horrendous motor vehicle crash when she was 15 years old. She lives with the lifelong effects of a traumatic brain injury. We have had to use services from many of the agencies that are having their budgets cut in half. Here is a list of the agencies that Hannah has been serviced by and that I also believe do a fantastic job on an already limited budget.

A.

B.

C. Options for Independent Living

D. - I have seen first hand how this agency helps people maintain independence in their communities and in their homes. They are not limited to any one disability, but assist people of all abilities, including help us find services for our aging parents.

E.

F.

G.

H. Family Voices

I. - Through Family Voices we have learned about programs that have been very useful to Hannah that no one else ever mentioned to us. Family Voices held teleconference meetings, and I could attend from my computer (this was way before zoom meetings became popular).

J. They do the research, they hold the class and they help a wide range of people all over the state of ND.

K.

L.

M.

N. Protection & Advocacy Project

O. - As I am typing this letter, I just received another e-mail from Theresa Larsen of P&A. They do so much, but what I use them most for is the up-to-date communications on things going on around the state. Rather than me having to figure out what is going

P. on, I rely on the e-mails from P&A. This is invaluable to me, a parent of an adult living in our home, with a disability.

Q.

R.

S.

T. Community Options

U. - Community Options has been invaluable to us. Because of Community Options, Hannah has had a job coach since she began her part time job in 2014. Because of the job coach, Hannah has maintained the same part-time job at the Minnewaukan School as librarian

- V. assistant, she is in her 7th school year. Without the job coach from Community Options, I do not believe she would be as successful as she is. She feels good about herself, she loves getting up in the morning and going to work and she enjoys getting her
- W. paycheck.
- X.

While these are in no particular order of importance, I believe their funding should be fully restored and their budgets should be increased.

The doctors told us after Hannah's accident that she would most likely end up in a vegetative state for the rest of her life! Well through the assistance of many agencies across North Dakota, Hannah is employed and enjoying life to the best of her "brain injured" ability. She was blessed to be able to access these services and it is my sincere hope that many more will be able to access their services in the future.

Thank you for your time and thank you for your consideration of restoring full funding to the above mentioned agencies.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call or write to me

God bless you as you work through this legislative session.

Sincerely,

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