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Testimony House Bill 1497
House Finance and Tax
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Chairman Headland and members of the Committee, my name is Kirsten Dvorak. I am the executive director of The Arc of North Dakota, which includes all six Arc chapters in North Dakota: Bismarck, Bowman, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Valley City. Our mission is to improve people's quality of life with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and community participation.

The Arc of North Dakota and its six chapters are a private non-profit 501(C)3 advocacy organizations formed over sixty years ago. Initially founded by a small group of parents and stakeholders, The Arcs' has offered various services and supports over the years, always morphing to meet the current needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. The chapters around the state are dedicated to improving community support and services, influencing public policy at all levels, providing education and training for advocates, self-advocates, and parents, and achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Most of the chapters' activities are supported through donations and contribute to positive changes for individuals with disabilities. Bill 1497 would open the doors for our supporters to make a sizable donation to the chapter of their choice and still receive the tax credit. Money that can be used as unrestricted funds to support our mission and could be used now. Money that is used to employ individuals with disabilities, sell individuals works of art for a commission, and promote health and wellness during the pandemic.

Grants can take up to 5 months; to be notified if your application was approved. Small non-profits shouldn't have to out promote other non-profits to receive donations. Why should our supporters not be able to make a sizable donation to their chapter of choice and support what is important to them and not decided by someone else?

We ask for a due pass on HB Bill 1497