

HB 1030

Government and Veterans Affairs

Representative Jim Kasper, Chairman

January 6, 2021

Chairman Kasper and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Royce Schultze, and I am the Executive Director of Dakota Center for Independent Living, Inc. (DCIL) in Bismarck. DCIL is a non-profit advocacy agency that works with people with disabilities. We serve 18 counties in South Central and South Western North Dakota.

I am here today in support of HB 1030 which would provide an appropriation of up \$750,000 to improve the accessibility on the state Capitol grounds.

I have been coming to the Capitol for various meetings and legislative sessions for many years and have experienced issues first hand as a person that uses a wheelchair.

Because of these experiences, I was invited to tour the first two floors of the Capitol with John Boyle, Director of Facilities Management and J2 Architecture and Design, and was also part of a planning team that looked at accessibility issues in the Capitol building.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed thirty years ago, and yet there are doors that wheelchair users cannot use, rooms that are too small for even one wheelchair, and for some, no access to a restroom. These accessibility issues need to be fixed now.

I hope you support HB 1030, along with the emergency clause so work can get started. Our great Capitol building must be made accessible for people of all abilities.

Thank you for your time, and I am available for any questions.