



**House Human Services Committee – SB 2226**

**Representative Robin Weisz, Chair**

**March 9, 2021**

Chairman Weisz, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm President of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept this testimony on behalf of our organization's approximately 1,200 members in support of SB 2226.

While it may seem odd for a business organization to be expressing support for a bill such as SB 2226 that calls for a new licensure for a residential end-of-life facility, it should be noted that healthcare is one of the 'keystones' of our local economy. SB 2226 has the potential to contribute to our community's healthcare, by:

- Establishing a new licensure for a residential end-of-life facility, licensed by the State Health Department, which would allow patients to receive hospice care from their chosen provider at such a facility.
- Providing a facility for those in our community and our state who want to provide a residential setting for their loved ones in their final day, but are unable to do so in their own home.
- Offering an option for our state's population, the percentage of whom are over 65 is growing, to receive care in a residential setting as there is currently no true home setting in North Dakota where 24-hour supportive care is provided.

Specific to Bismarck-Mandan, the Rockstad Foundation has developed plans for such a facility called Gaia Home where all of these services would be provided. However, in order for this project to become a reality, SB 2226 must be passed.

As such, we would respectfully ask for a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2226.