

Testimony in Support of SB 2226

Residential End-of-Life Facilities

House Human Services Committee

March 9, 2021 • 2:45 p.m. • Pioneer Room

Wally Goulet

Dear North Dakota House Human Services Committee: **I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2226** as I have lived through the benefits that similar facilities to Residential End-of-Life Facilities provided my mother in Arizona.

My mother at 92 years of age had clear mental faculties but physically she was suffering from terminal congestive heart failure and required 24/7 care for ambulation, bathing and bowel movements that **became beyond our family's caregiving ability to provide** at her home as they ultimately became exhausting and awkward to provide. In the facility she helped us choose, for what turned out to be her final three months of life, we could visit with her daily without the responsibilities of all the health care tasks associated with her daily needs. It was a relief to my mother and our family that we had this option for her final months of life. The staff of the facility, in concert with her previous hospice providers, were able to provide all the necessary services giving us all confidence we had made **the right choice for all involved**. We also enjoyed the fact that Mother had more options when facing the last days of her life than just having the option of moving into an institutional-like setting. The facility she chose had the look and feel of a large residential home that fit in well in a residential part of Scottsdale. She did not desire to move into a nursing home, so her choice gave her many of the comforts, amenities, assurances, and dignities of her own home. This choice was a much less restrictive environment than would have been available in hospitals or nursing homes. Best of all we had almost an unrestricted access to visiting her.

I fully **support the forward-thinking plan of the Rockstad Foundation** in its desire to create similar end-of-life residential facilities in North Dakota. My support for such facilities is certainly buoyed by my family's experience in Arizona. **It would be my hope that the legislature of North Dakota enact legislation that would provide for licensing and rules for the opportunity to move forward with the creation of such residential end-of-life facilities.**

Thank you for your consideration.