

# **Testimony in Support of SB 2226**

## **Residential End-of-Life Facilities**

### **House Human Services Committee**

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

Kristie Rants

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am writing in support of changing North Dakota Century Code to allow the Health Department to license residential end-of-life facilities in the state.

In 2004 I was working and living in central Minnesota and driving 10 hours each way to western North Dakota as often as I could to visit my ailing mother. She was receiving care several times a week from a home health nurse who was a blessing. However, most of the caregiving duties were provided by my aunt, father, neighbors, and family friends. It is not an easy job to take on, but they did it out of an abundance of love for my mother.

Residential end-of-life facilities provide a homey option where family and friends are welcome to visit and even stay with their loved ones. The difficult care required is provided by trained staff who are available 24 hours, seven days a week. I believe if residential end-of-life facilities existed when my mom was near the end of her fight with cancer, it would have allowed our family and friends to enjoy more quality time with her with less worry about her caregiving needs.

Our family was very lucky to have the support of my close-knit hometown during this very difficult time. Not everyone has an entire town helping to provide care and meals. And not everyone can stay in their home with a devoted group of caregivers.

Please support Senate Bill 2226 to allow residential end-of-life facilities to operate in North Dakota. They will give families more quality time with their loved ones during the final season of life.