



Good Afternoon Chairman Robin Weisz and Fellow Committee Members;

My name is Susanne Olson, I have worked in the hospice industry for 25 years. I am representing our Statewide Hospice Organization today. There are 10 hospice agencies in ND that are members of the statewide organization.

Hospice is many things. Mostly, about living and making a difference during individuals last journey of life. This is done, as you may already know, through a multidisciplinary team of professionals to include Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Chaplains, CNA's and volunteers focusing on the physical, mental and spiritual needs of our client and their caregivers.

By managing symptoms and controlling pain, we give our patients the opportunity to enjoy the highest quality of life for as long as they have. This gives individuals the chance to share more special moments with their family and express all the things they need to say.

Our organization is taking a neutral position on the legislation before you. The rules will be very important in defining how residential end of life facilities are operated and how services are delivered and defined.

We feel it is important to safeguard our industry and ensure any such end of life house now or in the future has the proper oversight regarding staffing competencies, safety of keeping/storing and dispensing narcotics among other considerations. Therefore, we believe a collaborative group of stakeholders should be required to assist in the rule development process. We would like to be actively involved in that process. To our understanding that has been added to the bill but would like to ensure that 'stakeholders' would be defined to include representation from all hospice agencies across ND.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

If you need any information, please contact:
Rochelle Schaffer - President NDHO (701) 323-8401
Susanne Olson – Hospice Liaison (701) 680-1297