

March 10, 2021

Re: North Dakota Dementia Services Program Funding

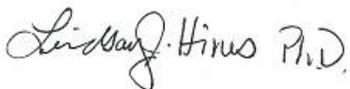
Dear Mister/Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lindsay Hines and I am a clinical neuropsychologist practicing at Sanford Health in Fargo, North Dakota. I am engaged in evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment planning with individuals with changes in memory, including Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

As a clinician, I rely on the North Dakota Dementia Care Services Program (DCSP), including the Alzheimer's Association, to facilitate optimal patient care after the dementia diagnosis is made. The services provided by the DCSP are integral to the health and well-being of North Dakotans with dementia, and their families. The services provided by the Alzheimer's Association have helped my patients to effectively decrease number of hospitalizations amongst individuals with dementia, prolong independent living (i.e. decrease length of time needing state-funded skilled nursing services), and decrease "crisis events," such as those involving police or paramedics to manage dementia-associated behaviors that pose a threat to self or others. It is clear that services provided through adequate North Dakota DCSP funding are associated with decreased state expenses and increased quality of life amongst North Dakotans.

I am writing this letter in support of increased state funding for the North Dakota DCSP. I am requesting that funding be increased, so that the Alzheimer's Association can continue to provide the high quality, necessary aspect of patient care to North Dakotans with dementia, and their families. Please vote yes, in support of the bill requesting increase funding for the DCSP to \$1,332,000.

Sincerely,



Lindsay J. Hines, Ph.D.

Neuropsychologist | Sanford Brain and Spine Center, Fargo ND

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