

**Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Ray Homberg-Chair**

Chairman Homberg and Senate Appropriations Committee,

Please accept this testimony in a support of HB 1015, line item “Guardianship grants”. Several elderly or disabled ND Veterans and/or Veterans dependents are unfortunately unable to properly care for themselves and are court appointed a public guardian on their behalf. These public guardians receive very little payment for their services. Unfortunately, due to underfunding, several court-appointed public guardian services go unfunded.

Please consider,

- The Guardianship Grants funding appropriation through HB 1015 is at a governor recommendation of \$1,950,000. The House amended to 2,050,000
- 2021-2023 caseload projections estimate a funding shortfall which will affect 150 court appointed public guardianships.
- The real need for Guardianship Grants is \$2,500,000 a shortfall in the governors recommendation of \$550,000 and the House recommendation is \$450,000 short.
- I urge the proper funding of the guardianship programs during the 2021-2023 biennium.

**The Guardianship programs protect the most vulnerable of ND Citizens. These programs should be among the highest priority for ND Legislators to fund.**

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lonnie Wangen  
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