

**House Bill 1405  
NDACP Testimony  
Senate Finance and Taxation Committee  
Hon. Jessica Bell, Chairman  
March 9, 2021**

Chairman Bell and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, good morning, and thank you for this opportunity. I am Bruce Murry, Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP.org). NDACP is the membership organization of 30 licensed providers of services to North Dakotans with developmental disabilities (DD). NDACP supports HB 1405 as a priority in serving people with DD.

HB 1405 seeks to extend an opportunity your committee supported last session to give people with disabilities a better chance at employment. The effort was interrupted just as people were starting to work their way into the application process with the outbreak of the COVID 19 emergency. We thank Representative Steiner, Senators Hogan and Meyer, and the other sponsors for this bill.

Vocational Rehabilitation Division reached out to The Arc of North Dakota and NDACP about adding people who receive “customized employment” services to the beneficiaries of this bill. The House adopted that language, making the bill even more effective.

This bill will increase employment prospects for people with disabilities. A tax credit like this helps bridge the gap between the costs of an employee and the value she or he can demonstrate to the employer on day one. After a relationship forms, many soft or intangible benefits to the employer emerge. This is especially important pending federal proposals to abolish all sub-minimum wage employment and to raise the minimum wage.

My colleague, Angela Dinius, and I are both happy to answer any questions that may arise about HB 1405, NDACP, its members’ services to people, and our priorities. Our contact information is below.

Thank you again to the sponsors and for your kind attention.



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North Dakota Association of Community Providers

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