



P.O. Box 2081
Bismarck, ND 58502-2081
Phone: (701)222-1854
Email: k.dvorak@thearcofbismarck.org
Website: www.thearcofbismarck.org

Testimony House Bill 1405
Senate Finance and Tax
March 9, 2021

Chairwoman Bell and members of the Committee, my name is Kirsten Dvorak. I am the executive director of The Arc of North Dakota, which includes all six Arc chapters in North Dakota: Bismarck, Bowman, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Valley City. Our mission is to improve people's quality of life with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and community participation.

According to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and other federal legislation, "disability is a natural part of the human experience...". Prevention activities do not diminish the value of individuals with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities (I/DD) but instead strive to maximize independence and enhance people's quality of life with I/DD.

When the bill was passed last session, a sunset clause of two years was attached to the program to evaluate the program and see if changes needed to be made. There were five individuals in the process of using the program when COVID hit, and like most, they had to put their jobs on hold due to being at high-risk.



P.O. Box 2081
Bismarck, ND 58502-2081
Phone: (701)222-1854
Email: k.dvorak@thearcofbismarck.org
Website: www.thearcofbismarck.org

Work gives individuals a sense of purpose and self-worth. For many, it defines who we are and is a source of justifiable pride. Work helps improve individual finances, and it helps us connect socially. All individuals, regardless of disability, deserve the opportunity to be full members of their community where they can live, learn, work and play through all stages of life.

Chairwoman Bell and members of the Committee, we ask for a due pass on HB 1405.