

HB 1089

Human Services Committee

Testimony of Laura Wolf, in support

Date

Ms. Chairman and members of the committee:

I am here to testify in support of this bill as I find the declination of this bill to be troublesome. The original wording of sections 25-01.2-09 and 25-03.1-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is faulty and will cause further harm if these amendments do not stand.

By adding “or shock treatment” to the first line of this bill and removing it from section five, this furthers the level of abuse that is not allotted and minimizes the ruling of if a situation should be of concern. Also, it removes the possibility of guardians consenting to the use of shock treatment on an individual, which is no longer a use of treatment.

Furthermore, these amendments add an additional right to the patients which reads “To be free from aversive reinforcement conditioning” and removing this form of treatment to be used on patients, with consent from the guardian. This amendment allows for the discontinuation of aversive reinforcement conditioning. This form of conditioning has been seen to be harmful long-term for patients and they should be allowed the right to not be subjected to this form of treatment.

I thank you for your time and urge for your support and pass on this bill.