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**Testimony of Support Senate Bill 2089**  
**Senate Human Services**  
**January 12, 2021**

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services 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.

The Arc of North Dakota asks for a Do Not Pass on SB 2089. The Arc of North Dakota feels that the Autism Voucher fills a need that the waiver does not. The voucher helps families purchase items that support their child with autism. Items purchased may be a swing for self-regulation—a chewy's for those with oral sensory needs. In return, these items can help the child in the classroom be successful, be among their peers, or enjoy a family movie night.

In return, we ask the committee to look at why the funds are not being spent and what can be done to see the families are getting the items they need. Is the voucher too limiting, is the process of accessing the funds too complex for families to navigate? What can be done so that families have the supports they need to help their child and address their child's difficulties.