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Testimony of Support Senate Bill 2125
Senate Human Services
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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 Pass on SB 2125.

There is a shortage of Licensed behavior analysts in our state. With student loan repayments, this will incentivize students to becoming behavior analysts in our state. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a proven form of therapy for specialized individuals for each individual. Behavior analysts are crucial to working with the individual to make sure that they are meeting their goals. Such as learning to be successful in a classroom, personal hygiene, and eating the dinner table.

ABA can also help adults who need help with daily tasks and even support them at their job. However, there is not enough behavior analysis to support ABA, and individuals are waiting to get help.

With the passing of SB 2125, this should close a gap needed in our special needs community.