



House Finance and Tax
HB 1402
January 25, 2023

Rep Headland and committee members. I am Kirsten Dvorak, Executive Director of the Arc of North Dakota; we have six chapters throughout the state of North Dakota that advocate on behalf of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) for full inclusion in their community of choice.

I am also the Executive Director of The Arc of Bismarck.

We support HB 1402

The six chapters are across the state-run thrift stores. The mission of the Arc Thrift Stores is to enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by providing funding to support the North Dakota Chapters. Each chapter is run independently of The Arc of North Dakota.

The Arc thrift stores help people find affordable clothing and other household items. It also provides opportunities for individuals to gain job skills and find resources to help them succeed.

In 2021 The Arc of Bismarck sold just over \$99,000 in clothing. Our total sales tax was \$6,715. The Arc, Upper Valley reports similar numbers. As you can see, this isn't a large sum of money.

Passing 1402 would make a huge difference for individuals trying to make ends meet. This bill will make it easier for them to stretch their dollars further and help them access necessities like food and housing. The 2021 census shows the wide disparity between the median earnings of people with disabilities and those without disabilities, and passing this bill is a step in the right direction toward bridging that gap. Let's ensure everyone is given the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of disability status.

Kirsten Dvorak

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