Testimony Prepared for the
**House Human Services Committee**
March 8, 2023
By Audrey Uhrich, Guardian Angels, vice president GAND

**RE: Senate Bill 2345 – Relating to the Task Force on Guardianship Monitoring**

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. I'm Audrey Uhrich, a professional guardian on staff with Guardian Angels, Inc., and vice president of the Guardianship Association of ND. I too, respectfully ask for your committee's support of this bill.

The establishment of a task force on guardianship monitoring to promote the accountability of all guardians is needed to provide better protection of vulnerable individuals with guardians that may be providing poor quality services or committing criminal exploitation.

There are some current protections in place to address the need for high-quality, ethical services from professional and family guardians.

- Supreme Court Administrative Rule 59 has implemented requirements for background checks and an affidavit to the court regarding any previous investigation of offenses related to theft, fraud, or abuse, neglect, or exploitation on an adult or child by a proposed guardian, state court online training, and national certification of professional guardians or accreditation of guardianship programs.
- Programs such as Vulnerable Adult Protective Services, Protection and Advocacy, and others, can investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, including actions or inaction by a guardian.
- The State Court Guardianship Monitoring Program can investigate specific guardianship cases upon order of the court.

These protections are valuable but there is a need for additional protection. This task force on guardianship monitoring can fill in the missing pieces and ultimately ensure that guardians in need of more education, training, or disciplinary action are addressed quickly. This will help to make certain that all guardians in our state provide ethical, high-quality services.

Thank you for your consideration. I can try to answer any questions you have.