

SB 2236 (2023 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
HONORABLE DIANE LARSON, CHAIRMAN
JANUARY 25, 2023 9:00 A.M.
TESTIMONY OF BRUCE MURRY FOR FRASER LTD

Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Bruce Murry, Lobbyist #330, representing Fraser LTD of Fargo, North Dakota. Since its inception in 1893, Fraser has met the needs of children, youth, and adults. Services and resources have grown to include independent living supports, residential services, and day support services for people with disabilities; as well as childcare and transitional youth services.

Fraser observes the same acute shortage of staff seen statewide. Disability service providers face the additional pressure of an extensive background check for each employee. Employees with a clean record are often very motivated to maintain it. They are often horrified that they could face investigations, findings of abuse or neglect, or even lawsuits for doing what they thought was right. This includes New Americans who have not had reason to trust their former governments. We seek to overcome these fears with training and supervision that help to foster high quality, person-centered services.

However, New Americans, college students, and others sometimes leave Fraser for fear of the level of responsibility they bear for services not completely under their control. Indeed, the State sets the service goals, establishes a budget, and regulates many aspects of the work. In these demanding circumstances, we can't afford to lose a single qualified employee.

I would be happy to facilitate conversations with Fraser about their experiences in this regard, including with Sandra Leyland, Fraser's CEO.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today.