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House Human Services Committee

Senate Bill 2291 - March 10, 2025

Testimony of Micah Olson, P&A Position-In Support

My name is Micah Olson. I am attorney at North Dakota Protection and Advocacy (P&A). P&A is in support of SB 2291.

An earlier version of this bill removed the definition of “limited guardianship.” P&A supports this version, as the definition has been put back in.

P&A is in favor the definition of “least restrictive form of intervention” at number 31 of the definitions section on page 8. This specifies and explains to guardians that an individual under guardianship must have as much freedom as possible. Having this specified in the law would benefit those under guardianship and would assist in explaining a guardian’s obligations.

P&A recommends using the term “Individual under guardianship” rather than “Ward”, as used in number 63 of the definitions section on page 11, and throughout the bill. P&A recognizes this is a significant undertaking, as “ward” is used throughout state law, but P&A would support a plan to update the language.