



Protection & Advocacy Project

400 E. Broadway, Suite 409

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-328-2950

1-800-472-2670

TTY: 711

www.ndpanda.org



Senate Judiciary Committee

House Bill 1166 - March 11, 2025

Testimony of Brad Peterson P&A Legal Director

Greetings Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Brad Peterson and I'm the Legal Director at the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A is an independent state agency established in 1977 to assert and advance the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work and play.

We request a Do Pass on HB 1166. It is not uncommon for a person with mental illness or a disability to have a criminal record for very minor events, unfortunately no matter how minor the criminal record, it likely impacts a person's access to housing and employment or other services.

The passage of HB 1166 would allow an individual better inclusion in their communities by removing unnecessary barriers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Peterson

P&A Legal Director

brapeterson@nd.gov