

## Testimony

### Human Services Committee

June 19, 2014

Good afternoon, Chairman Damschen and members of the committee. My name is Lisa Anderson from Leeds, ND.

This is exhausting –living with a brain injury survivor day in and day out is exhausting - I am exhausted – I am almost at the end of my rope. Hannah is now at a point that we have no idea what is going to happen.

A brain injury is something that is never ever going to go away for our daughter or our family or the thousands of others in ND who are living with it each and every day. This injury is for a lifetime.

I have dealt with the school system – I dealt with the college. I am dealing with the medical providers. Now Hannah is at a new phase in her life and where are we going to turn for help. I am her full time unpaid untrained case manager. Hannah is going to need support to ever be able to live on her own. As her doctors have said, “she is a vulnerable adult”.

I have given the last 6 ½ years of my life to take care of my daughter - who is going to be there to take care of Hannah when I am not there?

The state of ND has been studying TBI for over 30 years. Why don't we have programs in place after 30 years? I have been testifying in front of the legislature for almost all of those 6 ½ years – has anything really changed? What services do we have now that we didn't have before Hannah's accident?

There are millions and millions of dollars in the state of ND right now – giving brain injury a couple hundred dollars each session is not sufficient – where are the services?

I have tried to get involved and figure this out – it's not working – nothing is changing – we hit dead ends – why don't we have programs in place after 30 years. Why don't we have programs in place after 6 ½ years? How are you going to make brain injury a priority? What will it take to make brain injury programs a priority? Other states have programs in place and have been offering specialized services to their survivors for years.

Why can't we have what other states have? I have provided you with examples of 4 other states – why can't we have what others have. ND needs to do a better job of meeting the needs of the TBI population. There have not been any new services for brain injury in ND since 1998 when Dakota Point and Dakota Alpha were created.

Why are we going around and around in circles here? Where are the services – where are the things that survivors need in order to survive? Where are the day supports, where are extended services, where are the individualized supported living programs, where are the minimalized supported living programs. I am looking to you to start making these things happen – we need SERVICES – specialized services for all of the estimated 13,000 ND citizens living with a brain injury.

Thank you for your time this afternoon. If you have any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them for you. You can reach me by e-mail at [lisa.anderson@gondtc.com](mailto:lisa.anderson@gondtc.com), by phone at 701-739-6912 (cell) or 701-466-2561 (home).