

Testimony – Interim Traumatic Brain Injury Study – Human Services Division

Representative Chuck Damschen, Chairman

August 28, 2014

Good Afternoon.....chairman Damschen, and members of the Interim Committee of the Human Services Committee Divisions. My name is Eric Boehm and I suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury on May 17, 2002. It is a day that I will most likely never remember. I was very lucky to survive the car accident and I am thankful that I have been given a 2nd chance in life. My mom has told you my story and challenges over the past meetings.

Living life with a Traumatic Brain Injury is very hard to explain ... for one thing it changed my plans to attend college, well....I went to college at UND in Grand Forks three times but I have memory problems, the biggest one being I can't remember a lot of new information at one time like studying for a test was so hard. I would like to go back to college some day and try again. And I will.....but for now I am working at Sams club and I really like my job but I don't think I can make a good living at this job. Along with my memory problems, OCD, which started because of my brain injury, is another challenge in my life.

I work hard for my pay at Sams, and it is barely enough to pay all of my bills and maybe have some extra at the end of the month. My mom and dad own my car, and pay for all expenses for it. They also help me out with money in other ways and by always being there for me. Otherwise, I am very independent and on my own because I am working, driving, do my shopping, laundry, banking online, and other things.

Thank you for putting the Flex Fund Program in the Draft Bill. ...a little bit of money assistance can help me and many other brain injury survivors continue to work and enjoy our lives. I haven't been able to come to the meetings, and I want to thank you very much for your hard work to help us Brain Injury Survivors. I also want to say that I do need your help to be a successful citizen of North Dakota!! That's what I want to be just like most people.

Thank youI will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Eric Boehm

Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor