



Anne Carlsen

C E N T E R

Nurturing abilities. Changing lives.

**SB 2089**

**House Human Services Committee**

**Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

Chairman Weisz and the members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Tim Eissinger and I am CEO of the Anne Carlsen Center. We offer behavioral health services at (5) of our (7) locations in North Dakota, and our service providers supporting individuals on the Autism Spectrum and their families have been very passionate about providing input on SB 2089.

I am providing written testimony today in support of amendments to SB 2089 being offered by the North Dakota Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force. I strongly support the proposed language which includes adding unrelated, third-party facilitation support of the ASD task force, amends the qualification requirements, supports continuation of the voucher as a necessary and critical support for individuals and families addressing challenges related to understanding and working with an individual on the autism spectrum, review of the voucher program to promote better access to the voucher and with the appropriate assurances that it is used properly and to maximum benefit, and an interim study to continue evaluating the waiver and voucher as having the intended effects.

Administered effectively, the voucher program works, and I believe the unintended consequence of eliminating the voucher would be very costly, both in terms of the effects on the persons

served and their families, as well as the cost for more intensive services that will inevitably be needed as a result of not providing those supports when critical to have them.

Thank you for your consideration of my written testimony.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Eissinger".

Tim Eissinger  
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