

**HB 1405
NDACP Testimony
House Industry Business and Labor Committee
Human Resources Division
Hon. Mike Lefor, Chairman
January 27, 2021**

Chairman Lefor and members of the House Industry Business and Labor Committee, good morning, and thank you for this opportunity. I am Bruce Murry, Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP.org). NDACP is the membership organization of 30 licensed providers of services to North Dakotans with developmental disabilities (DD). NDACP supports HB 1405 as a priority in serving people with DD.

HB 1405 seeks to extend an opportunity your committee supported last session to give people with disabilities a better chance at employment. The effort was interrupted just as people were starting to work their way into the application process with the outbreak of the COVID 19 emergency. We thank Representative Steiner and the other sponsors for this bill.

Vocational Rehabilitation Division recently reached out to The Arc of North Dakota and NDACP and pointed out a language change that could make the bill more effective. NDACP respectfully requests the following amendment:

On page 1, line 23, after the words “customized employment” insert the words “supported employment” and renumber accordingly.

We believe this bill, especially as amended, will increase employment prospects for people with disabilities. This is especially important if the new Presidential administration continues with its efforts to abolish all sub-minimum wage employment and to raise the minimum wage. NDACP would find it tragic if some people with disabilities are unable to be employed at all.

My colleague, Angela Dinius, and I are both happy to answer any questions that may arise about HB 1405, NDACP, its members’ services to people, and our priorities. Our contact information is below.

Thank you again to the sponsors and for your kind attention.



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