



Senate Finance and Tax
HB 1244
March 7, 2023

Sen Kannianen and committee members. I am Kirsten Dvorak, Executive Director of the Arc of North Dakota; we have six chapters throughout the state of North Dakota that advocate on behalf of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) for full inclusion in their community of choice.

HB 1244 is a bill that would remove a sunset clause from a tax credit passed during the 67th legislative session and would reinstate the tax credit as it expired at the end of 2022. In addition, the bill would also add 100 participants for a total of 200 individuals with significant disabilities and mental illness.

As an advocate for individuals with intellectual disabilities, The Arc of North Dakota strongly supports the implementation of a tax credit for businesses that hire individuals with intellectual disabilities. Such a tax credit would not only provide much-needed support for individuals with intellectual disabilities, but it would also benefit businesses and the economy as a whole.

Individuals with intellectual disabilities face significant barriers when finding and maintaining employment. Despite their talents, skills, and abilities, many employers overlook these individuals because they believe they cannot contribute meaningfully to the workplace. This is a grave injustice, as individuals with intellectual disabilities have much to offer and deserve the opportunity to work and contribute to society.

A tax credit for businesses that hire individuals with intellectual disabilities would be a powerful incentive for employers to give these individuals a chance. Businesses would be more likely to take a chance on them by reducing the cost of hiring and training these individuals. This would open up new opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, providing them with meaningful work and the chance to achieve greater independence and self-sufficiency.

Moreover, implementing a tax credit for businesses that hire individuals with intellectual disabilities would benefit the economy. When individuals with intellectual disabilities can work and contribute to society, they become less dependent on public assistance and more self-sufficient. This, in turn, reduces the burden on taxpayers and strengthens the economy by increasing overall productivity.

Kirsten Dvorak

701-222-1854