

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1231

2005 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1231

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1231

House Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 17, 2005

Tape Number
#1

Side A

Side B
x

Meter #
#3520-4075

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Price opened the hearing on HB 1231.

Rep. Dennis Johnson. I am here to introduce this bill, the individual that was supposed to appear is unable to, because of a funeral today. I have asked Chairman Price if she can hold the hearing open until a later date. We are attempting to update the terminology under Sec 7. We are trying to bring the terminology into the 20th Century, and also areas that weren't covered in the code.

Rep. Maragos: See Mr. Hill's testimony attached.

Rep. Kaldor: Will this have any fiscal effect.

Chairman Price: It is already in the School for the Deaf budget.

Hearing left open.

MR# 4075.

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1231

House Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 26, 2005

Tape Number

2

Side A

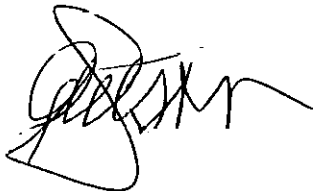
Side B

x

Meter #

0-3018

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Price reopened the hearing on HB 1231. If you remember, we held this hearing open due to a funeral scheduling during the last hearing.

Eric Lysene: School for the Deaf, Business Manager. Appearing for Rockland Hoffart, Supt..
See Attached testimony.

David Zimmerman, Physical Education, Health Teacher. Testimony Attached.

Lila Bakken- Community Coordinator. Testimony attached:

Carol Lybeck, Outreach Coordinator. Testimony attached.

Rep. Porter: In your position as you expand the adult outreach program, will your charge a fee?

C, Lybeck: Not right now, possibly in the future, sometimes right now, an individual may have part of the funds, adult rehab may implement a program.

Chairman Price: On Sec 2, page 1, in the current language, is that always true that they are not able to get the level of education in their school district or sometimes other issues, such as behavior or other things.

C. Lybeck: Possible behavior issue - hearing low, less restructuring.

Chairman Price: So it just isn't that the parents saying, "I don't want to be bothered, let (Johnny)(example) go to Devils Lake to school vs. being home.

C. Lybeck: No, educational impact and determination of least restrictive environment, is where placement is at.

Rep. Weisz: How many do you anticipate serving?

C. Lybeck: I don't have a current number, we have had 50 requests in the last year and a half, since we have looked at this. For specific training kinds of things, college programs, vocational programs and vocational rehabilitation. We have had request to assist in the assessment process. To place deaf individuals from private entities who have been called in by potential employers to help with the process and for our services.

Rep. Porter: How much was the budget was increased to provide these services?

C. Lybeck: None

Rep. Porter: It was in the existing appropriation in HB 1013?

C. Lybeck: Yes, it is a hold even budget.

Eric Lyson: We have submitted a hold even budget in HB 1013. We are planning on reinvesting some of our recourses, to help provide these new services and keep within our appropriation.

Rep. Porter: What would happen if the services or number of people goes beyond the hold even amount. Will you reduce services or say we have reached our limit and stop?

C. Lybeck: Currently we have 4 staff to handle these requests, if and when the time would come, we are already in the area, we will combine that visit in that same time frame, if we do grow, we do have staff available to help in those areas.

Eric Lysne: In our 05-07 request, we did unfund 2 positions, and in the 3rd position, we reduced that from a 12 month to a 9 month position. We currently have approximately 5 vacant positions, and are going to be studying the 05-07 biennium involved and look at what are needs are and if reclassification is necessary, we will do that to help us handle the expanded mission. Part of the blue ribbon task force recommendation was to in addition to expanding adult services, was to over a multi year time frame, was to reduce staff. We are starting to do that now, and the other was to increase revenue. This past August, we entered into a lease agreement with early explorers (Head Start). They are leasing one of our buildings, we moved our classrooms and remodeled, so that we could accommodate our students in a different location. We are renting the entire building with an estimated income of around \$120,000 during the 05-07 budget period. They are also paying for phone, data processing and food services, we expect to receive around \$80,000 in expenses which equates to about \$200,000 extra in revenue to be placed in our special fund..

Chairman Price: Let me understand this, you unfunded two positions, another one from 12 month to 9 month. You still have 6 vacant positions?.

E. Lysne: That is correct.

Carmen Suminski, Supt. ND School for the Blind. Testimony attached.

Chairman Price: Are there anymore to testify for this bill, anyone in opposition?

Hearing closed.

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1231

House Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date Feb. 14, 2005

Tape Number

\

Side A

X

Side B

Meter #

1320-4191

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Price opened discussion on HB 1231.

Chairman Price indicated that in 1979, it was changed the indigent student language to include all students.

Rep. Kaldor: Motion to remove Section 7-10.

Rep. Potter: Second

Rep. Damschen: Could you explain the additional "must consist" include.

Rep. Kaldor: That is already in the law.

Voice Vote: Unanimous to accept the motion.

Chairman Price: We have an amended bill.

Rep. Nelson: Move Do Pass as Amended.

Rep. Porter: Second.

Vote: 11-0-1 Carrier: Rep. Kaldor

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/10/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1231

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

| | 2003-2005 Biennium | | 2005-2007 Biennium | | 2007-2009 Biennium | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | General Fund | Other Funds | General Fund | Other Funds | General Fund | Other Funds |
| Revenues | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Expenditures | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Appropriations | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

| 2003-2005 Biennium | | | 2005-2007 Biennium | | | 2007-2009 Biennium | | |
|--------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| Counties | Cities | School Districts | Counties | Cities | School Districts | Counties | Cities | School Districts |
| \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

2. Narrative: *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

Appropriations are included in HB1013 under the School for the Deaf funding. Proposing to provide the services within existing appropriation.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

None

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

None

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

None

Name: Eric Lysne
Phone Number: 701-662-9005

Agency: School for the Deaf
Date Prepared: 01/14/2005

House Amendments to HB 1231 - Human Services Committee 02/15/2005

Page 1, line 1, remove "to create and enact three new sections to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota"

Page 1, remove line 2

Page 1, line 3, remove "impaired;"

Page 1, line 4, replace "; and to" with a period

Page 1, remove lines 5 and 6

House Amendments to HB 1231 - Human Services Committee 02/15/2005

Page 3, remove lines 25 through 31

House Amendments to HB 1231 - Human Services Committee 02/15/2005

Page 4, remove lines 1 through 21

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/14/05

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1231

House

Human Services

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 50313.0101

Action Taken Do Pass-Amend

Motion Made By Rep Potter

Seconded By Rep Kaldor

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---------------------|-----|----|-----------------|-----|----|
| Chairman C.S. Price | , | | Rep.L. Kaldor | , | |
| V Chrm.G. Kreidt | , | | Rep.L. Potter | , | |
| Rep. V. Pietsch | , | | Rep.S. Sandvig | , | |
| Rep.J.O. Nelson | , | | | | |
| Rep.W.R. Devlin | , | | | | |
| Rep.T. Porter | , | | | | |
| Rep.G. Uglem | , | | | | |
| Rep C. Damschen | , | | | | |
| Rep.R. Weisz | | AB | | | |

Total (YES) 11

No 0

Absent)

Floor Assignment Rep. Kaldor

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1231: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1231 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, remove "to create and enact three new sections to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota"

Page 1, remove line 2

Page 1, line 3, remove "impaired;"

Page 1, line 4, replace "; and to" with a period

Page 1, remove lines 5 and 6

Page 3, remove lines 25 through 31

Page 4, remove lines 1 through 21

Renumber accordingly

2005 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1231

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. **HB 1231**

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 16, 2005

| Tape Number | Side A | Side B | Meter # |
|-------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| 1 | x | | 0-6000 |
| 1 | | x | 0-960 |
| 2 | x | | 3300-3655 |

Committee Clerk Signature



Relating to the school for the deaf.

Representative Dennis Johnson - Introduced the Bill. - Said it is a lot of clean up language.

Representative Andy Maragos - Co-sponsor of this bill.

(meter 260)

Rocklyn Cofer - Superintendent of the ND School for the Deaf - See written testimony.

Senator Lee - Told of her tour of the school and asked Mr. Cofer to tell the rest of the committee a little about the facility and what has been happening there.

Cofer - He said when he started there they had 48 students, but have now seen a decline. This year they started with 30 students. They serve preschool through grade 12 or ages 3 through 21.

He thinks one of the key things about their facility is that they teach communication skills. Their main goal is to get language and communication skills to the students. They feel that the

students being there 24 hours a day is a great benefit to learning sign language. He doesn't think going to an outreach mode would work as well for their students.

Senator Warner - Asked about other services provide for the adult students.

Cofer - He said they offer from other agencies vocational rehabilitation, job services, communication services. He feels they are an educational agency and they can provide some support to those agencies. Members of their Blue Ribbon Task Force from some of these agencies spoke to the fact they feel we could provide support services. Like job coaches, aging services and job service.

(meter #1261)

Senator Lyson - Wondered if terribly loud things have led to the increase in 15 yr. to adult.

Cofer - Said there is a number of things that have contributed, one is the aging population.

Senator Lee - Asked if anyone is providing outreach services or special services to individuals older than 21.

Cofer - Replied Vocational Rehabilitation is the biggest provider.

Senator Lee - Asked if they are doing any work with them at this time.

Cofer - Some.

Senator Lee - Said it seems you have a broad range of ages at the school. Asked if they have students that stay 2 or 3 years and then end up going back to school or do they stay with you for 12 or 13 years.

Cofer - Said in his 10 years they have had some students go back to their school but the majority stay throughout their educational years. About 60% of their students have other disabilities but

their primary disability is listed as deafness. They have 20 or 22 different disabilities at the school that impedes the students educational process.

Senator Warner - Asked about training people who go on to other schools.

Cofer - Said they have a number of students that go on to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. A number of students go on to Universities and technical training.

Senator Lee - Asked if there ever has been any discussion on combining any services, such as the School for the Blind, all in one place. Especially for students with more than one disability.

Cofer - Said they do have some outreach services that combine services. They are in the process of hiring a coordinator to provide a one stop service.

Senator Dever - Asked about the amendments that were put on by the House.

Cofer - Said they wanted some specific things that they wanted to do in adult services and needed some words taken out and not have an age limitation to providing some services even on a limited basis.

(meter #2158)

David Zimmerman - Teacher - ND School for the Deaf - See written testimony.

(meter #2735)

Lilia Bakken - Communications Coordinator, ND School for the Deaf - See written testimony.

Also is signing for those who are deaf in attendance. She added that they think they missed the point when they presented their testimony to the House. She thought it was too bad those questions had not come up so they could have responded to them. She related what their point is, not to duplicate services, its that they have specialized services they provide. She said their school has taken on the responsibility of becoming a resource center on deafness not just to the

students but also their families. Their school gets a lot of calls for assistance not only for students under the age of 21 but adults as well. She gave an example of an older man unable to communicate after a stroke. They were asked if they could teach the staff some skills to communicate with this man to ease some of his frustration. She had to tell them no they only work with families whose children are 21 and below. But she did tell the nursing home she would teach the staff because of her love of teaching for the deaf. She said there could be more awareness training in nursing homes so the patients are not feeling isolated when they cannot hear.

She would like to see workshops available to older people who are losing their hearing.

(meter #4223)

Senator Lee - Asked if they get requests to do workshops for teachers of children who are in the age group they serve.

Bakken - Replied, yes.

Senator Dever - Asked about a fiscal note.

Cofer - Replied, no there is no fiscal note. They would look at these additional services to adults within their existing budget.

Carol Lybeck - Outreach Coordinator at the NDSD - See written testimony. She said they have 29 students from 3-21 at the school. In direct services they have 6 other students. They consult with 12 other schools depending on what the need is.

(meter #5395)

Senator Lee - Asked about the director being from the satellite offices

Lybeck - Replied, yes

Senator Lee - Mentioned a classroom in West Fargo that was specifically accommodating hard of hearing students and the staff members were specially trained. Asked if those things are still being done.

Lybeck - Said that the bigger districts are, rural areas are not. They hope to come in at least for consultations.

(meter #5764)

Mark Hill - Lobbyist and Vice-president for the NDAD.-See written testimony.

(end of side A, tape 1)

(side B, tape 1)

Senator Lee - Asked how many members there are in the association.

Hill - Replied, 80 adult members.

(meter #134)

Larry May - He told of his son that was in the school for 10 years and he is currently in a vocational workshop. He said this bill would make the transition smoother for young adults going into the workplace. He said the needs for these people don't stop. On going support is needed for them.

(meter #590)

Senator Lee - Said the interim committee was very impressed with the school and staff members when they visited there.

Senator Dever - Asked how long May's son has been out of school.

May - Said he graduated in 2003.

Senator Lee - Said the Minot Vocation was very good.

Senator Lee - Asked if most speech therapists have training in signing.

Bakken - Replied, no they do not.

Senator Lee - Asked if they have a working relationship with IPAD to get the technology devices that you need for communications for these children and adults.

Someone replied yes and they refer to them and back and forth.

(meter #960, side B, tape 1)

Closed the hearing on 1231.

Chairman Lee reopened discussion.

Chairman Lee: Somebody asked me why the House altered it the way they did and the reason was, they were concerned that the school for the deaf was looking to expand its mission to serve students beyhond the age of 21 in order to keep going as a school, because they had fewer and fewer students. We have to decide if we see their expanded vision appropriate for them.. I think the school for the blind is a great parallel in how they've evolved from being a residential facility to a provider of services for the blind.

Sen. Warner: One of the problems I see with the school for the deaf, is that they're serving two very distinct populations. There are very high end people who go the school there and do fabulously--they are not retarded in any way, shape or form. And then there's a larger group which are developmentally disabled and they have trouble mixing the two populations. And then there's a separate issue with the struggles of 'deaf culture' a self-imposed segregation almost.

Chairman Lee: But they *want* their students to be in this segregated setting, and I think there's a parallel in the families of people the at the center who want their family members to be there

instead of in a community setting because they think they're happier there and it's very hard to overrule a parent or guardian of the residents at the developmental center.

Sen. Lyson: I think they can do what they want to do right now, but the superintendent should say that these people want somebody to come and treat them. What do they charge you, so they've got some money coming in.

Chairman Lee: The fiscal note is between \$400,000-\$600,000 that is in the budget and they have six vacant positions that they have not filled for some time. Appropriations is looking at backing that money out of their budget, if we restrict their mission to only serving the ones there now.

There's nothing attached to this bill, but there is a fiscal impact or effect because they will have to reduce the staff.

Sen. Brown: They've got 29 official students, and how many staff do they have? I think their staff to student ratio is the best in the state.

Chairman Lee: That's a fair question.

Senator Lyson gave an example of how well the children do at the facility.

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1231

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 22, 2005

Tape Number

1

Side A


Side B

x

Meter #

320-1890

Committee Clerk Signature



Relating to the School for the Deaf.

Chairman J. Lee opens committee work on HB 1231

(tape 1, side B, meter #320)

Senator Lee - Said that concerns of the house was that they were looking to keep there people busy, that they were interested in expanding their mission.

Senator Lyson - Said he got from this that they want to go out to hospitals and nursing homes and teach the staff.. He thinks they could do that without the bill.

Senator Lee - Replied no they can't. It isn't fair to expect them to provide services on their own time.

Senator Warner - Said he didn't understand the non-duplicated services as stated in the bill but still have agent services as an agency. Seems like an over lap.

Senator Brown - Said they are doing some services already and they are not asking for additional money. They may be setting it up to ask for additional money in 2 years but they are not asking today.

Senator Warner - Said we would have to state language that says its permissive but not mandated.

Senator Lee - Said that it says now that they will provide services to people over age 21.

Senator Warner - Said we need to change the must to a may then we have made it permissive instead of mandatory.

Senator Lee - Said it looks just like cleaning up the language. Asked for any discussion.

Senator Dever - Asked what the House amendments did.

Senator Brown - Explained what sections were taken out.

The committee looked back to the original bill to see what the House had done. They also discussed options or services out there for the blind. There was discussion on where or how far the distance involved would be they would travel.

Senator Lee - Wondered about charges, and didn't want someone not to receive service

Senator Lyson - Concerned about the cost of travel. Thought it could have a big fiscal note.

Senator Warner - Thought it would be appropriate to amend section 8 back in, we might want to add language that allows them to charge for services. He talked of some parts that allow them collect data, then the next section repeals it.

Senator Lee - Asked what you would rather have them do.

Senator Warner - Said he thinks section 10 as its written in the bill and has been since 1971 should stay in the law.

Page 3

Senate Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number **HB 1231**

Hearing Date March 22, 2005

Senator Lee - Said so we support that they can't go for the repealer.

Senator Warner - Said yes, then section 9 is reverent.

Senator Lee - Asked if we would like to re-institute section 8.

Senator Brown - Replied 7 and 8.

Senator Brown moved an amendment restoring 7, 8 and 9.

Senator Warner seconded

Senator Lee - Asked if ability to charge for services should be included in section 8.

Senator Warner - Asked would they be allowed to retain the money or does it go to the general fund.

Senator Brown - Said lets leave it.

Senator Lee - Asked if the date should be changed from March to May.

Senator Brown - Said he would add that to his amendment.

(meter #1658)

Senator Lyson - Said he will vote for it but that he doesn't like section 7. He doesn't like micro Management.

Voted on the amendment, do pass.

Senator Brown moved do pass on amended bill.

Senator Warner seconded.

Senator Warner will carry.

(meter #1890)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1231

Page 1, line 1, after "to" insert "create and enact three new sections to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired; and to"

Page 1, line 8, replace "must" with "may"

Page 3, after line 20, insert:

"SECTION 7. A new section to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

School for the deaf - Adult services.

1. The school for the deaf may provide services to adults who are deaf or hearing impaired. The services may include:

- a. Consultations;
- b. Evaluations;
- c. Information;
- d. Auditory training;
- e. Training in the use of technology and assistive technologies;
- f. Training in life skills; and
- g. Recreational opportunities.

2. The school for the deaf may assist adults who are deaf or hearing impaired in obtaining access to vocational rehabilitation programs, developmental disabilities programs, aging services, captioned media services, communications services, and advocacy services. The school for the deaf also may assist individuals in obtaining residential placements in independent living facilities.

SECTION 8. A new section to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Provision of services - Collaboration. The school for the deaf may collaborate with public and private entities for the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired.

SECTION 9. A new section to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Data base. The school for the deaf may maintain a data base of individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired."

Renumber accordingly

Date:

3-22-08

Roll Call Vote #:

1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1231

Senate Human Services

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken Do Pass Restore ^{sect} 7, 8, 9, by 'insert to may' on line 8

Motion Made By Sen Brown Seconded By Sen Warner

| Senators | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|
| Sen. Judy Lee - Chairman | ✓ | |
| Sen. Dick Dever - Vice Chairman | ✓ | |
| Sen. Richard Brown | ✓ | |
| Sen. Stanley Lyson | ✓ | |

| Senators | Yes | No |
|------------------|-----|----|
| Sen. John Warner | ✓ | |

Total (Yes)

5

No

0

Absent

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3-22-05
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1231

Senate Human Services

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken RD Pass amended bill

Motion Made By Sen. Brewer, Seconded By Sen. Warner

| Senators | Yes | No | Senators | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|------------------|-----|----|
| Sen. Judy Lee - Chairman | ✓ | | Sen. John Warner | ✓ | |
| Sen. Dick Dever - Vice Chairman | ✓ | | | | |
| Sen. Richard Brown | ✓ | | | | |
| Sen. Stanley Lyson | ✓ | | | | |

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent

Floor Assignment Sen. Warner

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1231, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1231 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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Renumber accordingly

2005 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1231

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL NO. HB 1231

House Human Services Committee

☒ Conference Committee AA

Hearing Date April 6, 2005

| Tape Number | Side A | Side B | Meter # |
|-------------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1 | X | | 26.3-end |
| 1 | | X | 3.5-6.4 |

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

REP. BRUSEGARD, CHAIRMAN Called the conference committee meeting to order.

SEN. LEE Explained what they did in the amendments. She stated they changed the word "shall" to "may" on the first page of the original bill. The reason was that there was a lot of discussion, they recognized that there are budget limitations. We heard from people that they didn't think they could legally provide any kind of services at requests from long-term care facilities who needed some assistance in providing appropriate services to a resident or an employer who had a deaf employee, and because they are limited to under twenty one years of age, they didn't think they could do that. The reason we did it this way, was by saying they may provide those kinds of things, is it would allow them to provide some extra teeth to those, and the reason we put back in the things that the policy committee in the House side had reviewed in the first place, was to say that those are the kinds of things we are thinking about them being able to do, if, with their current staff and within their current budget, they could do that. The really big

deal is, there is a section that calls for a study of services for the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf, and how they might be able to collaborate in a way, to provide services throughout the state. We think it is important that they be able to use the extra teeth on a consulting basis within the current budget, and with the section that the appropriations committee is putting into HB 1012, calling for this study.

REP. WEISZ Gave an explanation of the changes the House made.

SEN. LEE Stated she had meant to bring the amendments to HB 1012, so everyone could see what the intention was, it was their intention not to put the FTE's in, but just to enable them until the study was done.

REP. BRUSEGAARD Stated that it appears the state has at least made a commitment to the hearing impaired people under the age of twenty one, would be able to attend the School for the Deaf at the expense of the state. Do we want to expand that?

SEN. WARNER The difference between resident and non resident, was just a rewording of language?

REP. BRUSEGAARD It was a matter of outreach services.
What do we have to decide in this committee?

SEN. LEE Stated she would be interested to know the philosophy on the House side. Can we permit them to do outreach work? Can we enable them to do what they are able to with their current staff, and not add FTE's at this time.

REP. BRUSEGAARD That was my understanding that we weren't adding an additional appropriation.

REP. WEISZ Stated he didn't think the committee said they didn't want to do outreach. The issue they had was they never identified the cost, and that should be dealt with in appropriations, that is why the House committee backed off because they didn't have those answers.

SEN. DEVER Asked whether the appropriations committee did consider this, as part of HB 1012?

REP. BRUSEGAARD Gave an explanation of what he remembered.

SEN. WARNER Gave an explanation of what the thoughts were on the Senate side.

REP. WEISZ Referred to the "may" language. It had to do with the outreach they were mandating. It says, in a sense, they do not have to provide services just to anybody. If you put the "may" in you don't have to provide any education or training, obviously, they are going to, I am not implying that, but there could be an issue, where they say, they don't have to.

SEN. WARNER Stated Section 1 is only dealing with the name of the school.

SEN. LEE Submitted the information regarding the study which is being proposed for next session.

REP. BRUSEGAARD Referred to the House amendments to HB 1013, two FTE's were removed and \$51,000 of operating expenses. The two FTE's were general funded, and \$123,000 was special funds. He wondered where the money came from for the special FTE.

SEN. LEE Could not respond to that.

ROCKY KOFFER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR

THE DEAF Answered questions of the conference committee members. Stating the two positions that were removed, one of them is a deaf/blind outreach programs coordinator and that is totally federal funded. He stated he wrote a letter to the chairman of the appropriations

committee indicating that they would like that FTE reinstated. There is no general fund money involved with that, and there is a federal program for technical assistance for care givers for parents and there are forty children under that program. The other FTE is an instructor position that we had advertised for the last three years, it is for a special needs person, and we have not had an applicant. That is one of the things we have a tough time with is recruitment.

He related to other positions they are advertising for.

The intent of what we are looking at, came out of the Blue Ribbon Task Force Committee, in the last half of 2003, the first half of 2004, which was made up of 35 people. One of the recommendations made to Dr. Sanstead was to expand the outreach services of the North Dakota School for the Deaf into adult services. One of the other recommendations was that over the biennium, we would look at ways to reclassify positions or to ?

SEN. LEE Stated the policy committee should not be intruding on the regulation of the appropriation committee as to the number of FTE's and what the budget number should be. My view of the bill is whether or not, we are going to permit the School for the Deaf to provide any kind of services to people over twenty one.

SEN. WARNER Stated he had a strong sense that the House policy committee hijacked the appropriations committee. This bill is just to get permission of language to extend the services within the appropriation. I am afraid we have been confusing the issue, the issue is really much simpler. It is simply a matter of policy that allows the School for the Deaf to extend services to those over twenty one.

SEN. LEE Made a motion that the House would accede to the Senate amendments.

SEN. WANER: Second the motion. Motion failed.(end of side A)

Side B: (3.5)

SENATOR J. LEE: We have spent a fair amount of time talking about the appropriations committee taking over policy decisions and in this case I might say I certainly think while they are important to us, but I think our policy committee should not be intruding on the right of the appropriations committee to determine what the number of FTE's is and what the budget numbers should be. I leave that to you and our colleagues on our side of the isle. My view of this bill is whether or not we are going to permit School for the Deaf to provide any kind of services to people over 21. I will leave it to you guys to figure out whether or not there is enough money for them to do anything beyond an occasional request or whatever they are able to do out of the current budget. Our intention was never to move into that area, but rather to leave that to your discretion.

SENATOR WARNER:(5.0) I would like to echo Senator Lee's comments. I have a strong sense the House policy committee has hijacked the appropriations committee. I think there has been some altercation of the issue with this particular bill. This is just to give them permissionative language and services within their current appropriations bill, whatever that appropriation is and that is your decision what that current appropriation is. I am afraid we have been confusion the issue. The issue is really much simpler than the bill that is before us as to a matter of policy that would allow the School of the Deaf to extend services to those persons who are over 21.

REP. BRUSEGAARD-CHAIRMAN: (5.6) Asked for a motion.

SEN. LEE: I move that the House recede from the Senate amendments.

Page 6

House Human Services Committee

Bill Number HB 1231

Hearing Date April 6, 2005

SEN. DEVER: Second

CHAIRMAN BRUSEGARD: Any further discussion?

Roll Voice Vote: Rep. Brusegaard-No, Rep. Wiesz-No, Rep. Sandvig-No, Senator Lee-Yes,

Senator Dever -Yes, Senator Warner-No

MOTION FAILED HEARING WILL BE RESCHEDULED.

MR#(6.4)

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL NO. HB 1231

House Human Services Committee

☒ Conference Committee

Hearing Date April 7, 2005

Tape Number

1

Side A

X

Side B

Meter #

0-22.6, 22.9-26.8

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Conference Committee Members: Senator J. Lee, Senator Warner, Senator Dever, Rep.

Brusegaard-Chairman, Rep. Weisz, Rep. Sandvig. All present.

Chairman Brusegaard: (1.4) Are there people right now out there with hearing impaired that aren't receiving services?

Senator J. Lee: Yes, the survey will tell us how many.

Chairman Brunsegaard:(1.5) So we are attacking a problem with legislation that we don't know the scope or size of it. Is that wise?

Senator J. Lee:(1.7) Our perspective has been that we don't know exactly how many there are and I don't know if we know how many there are in any group necessarily of human services, as far as who needs them, do we know how many people request them or in a position to have services offered because someone is aware of their needs. What we are looking at doing is making sure that their expertise will be available for the people who need it, as I said yesterday.

Also, that we could do some hard work within the next few years to find out whether or not there is a need to broaden their services or not. Why would we not at least allow them to use their expertise in ways that might be beneficial to people over 21. Even if it is a handful, why would we deny that? There isn't anyone doing assistance.

Chairman Brusegaard: What about Voc Rehab? The School for the Deaf is the premier resource corridor. Do we know how much money is spent by other state agencies by human services that is provided under the bill?

Senator J. Lee:(2.7) I think back to the fact that we aren't looking to expand the financial outlay; we are looking at enabling them to address requests brought to them that might be for people over 21 as their own current budget permits.

Chairman Brusegaard:(2.9) I don't disagree that one of our jobs as a legislator is to make sure we don't double up on where we spending the money. But I think it is just as pertinent for where we are doubling up on private services.

Senator Dever:(3.1) I don't know if it is spelled out in the bill, but this testimony offered, Mr. Cofer said expand mission of the School for the Deaf to include non-duplicated programs and services. It seems to me that is their intent, whether it is spelled out, I am not sure. Would your concerns be relieved if we put a sunset clause on this with a report?

Chairman Brusegaard:(3.4) I don't think my concerns can not be settled.

Rep. Weisz:(3.5) Looking at the language you put into the bill maybe I am misinterrupting some of the statements that were made yesterday. I hope not. It appeared to be one of the big things would be School for the Deaf if a resource. In your section where you list all the different things that could be provided, because one we really don't know what the need is; what is being

provided and what isn't. If we limited it to A.B.C. So that in other words the NDSD would be a resource for others or information base for others for the next two years while we address the problem. Would that possibly be acceptable? I am just looking at maybe there is a way to narrow this scope for this next two years.

Senator J. Lee:(4.4) You are talking about just the consultation, evaluation and information.

Rep. Weisz: Keeping those three because they are basically an informational area instead of getting into recreation opportunity and the other training life skills. This would put them as a referral resource. I understand, obviously, that it will be back in two years. It implies that it has not fiscal costs, but we don't know how many people they are planning to serve, what kind of recreational opportunities, how many we are going to train in these technologies? That is some of the concern has. But I do really agree with some of your comments right now if somebody can't even call the School for Deaf, if they are an adult to even get information or referral or resource or what is out there or what is available. I am just looking at if there is some way to narrow the scope. We should just look at that for the next meeting. If there is some way to narrow the scope to address some of our concerns that we just open up a qualified program without knowing what the costs or needs will be.

Senator J. Lee:I don't disagree to what Rep. Weisz is talking about. I just do have a concern about specifically eliminating training and life skills and the use of AT. Because I don't anticipate there setting up a program to do that kind of stuff. But they are a premier provider of information and resources concerning services to the deaf, if somebody particularly needs help adapting to the cranium life skills. If I was suddenly stricken with a severe hearing loss or deafness and I needed some assistance how am I doing to find the right quilt protector and how

do I decide how to have one of the hearing impaired telephone services made available to me.

How do I do those kinds of things that are safety and just living features in an those are extremely important things and those are the kinds of things that those are the kinds of areas that are important to those who are over 21. I think including that would be a concern for me. I think allowing them to only do what they are able to do with the people they already have is going by it's very nature limit what they are going to do. But to say they can't allow somebody to offer assistance, even information actually, how do you decide if it is just life skills, which category it comes under?

Rep. Weisz:(7.) I agree, that is part of the problem. What you just said to me would fall under under either consultation information as far as how to use the telephone or a smoke detector; some of those issues. I realize that practicality in the law does not always go hand in hand. Indeed someone could call him up and say that I am deaf and I don't know how to deal with these issues. But they could still train you in sign language; we are going to do this or that. We don't know what the need is there or how much of a need so where is it going to take us? Two years or four year down the road.

Senator Warner: (7.6) Four years ago I was working on the appropriations and it struck me at the time that we are not too bad at providing services for people under 21. Not too bad at providing services for people over 65. We are not too bad in the middle at providing services which allow people to hold jobs, relative to their handicap doing a vocation. As far as the issue is just general life and living at home and being self sustaining in a group home or something, we do a terrible job. Those people fall through the cracks in the process that we have all the time. We are not very good at providing services to that population outside the work environment.

Even though they may be working, but to help them with adaptive technology to help them do their job better; not help them live and not help them function with the smoke alarm and the telephone and all those other things. I suppose we could argue forever. The population we are targeting are people who are not necessarily on the job or elderly or young, but people who are in the prime of their life or should be.

Chairman Brusegaard: (9.3) Isn't that the function of Voc Rehab?

Senator Warner: (9.4) They don't train them how to live. They train them how to work.

Senator J. Lee: (9.6) There are all kinds of things that are different on the job than at home and Voc Rehab does a fine job with preparing people for the work place; adapting the work place to the disability that someone has. But there are all kinds of things we take for granted that are a part of living. How does the alarm wake you up in the morning? It is remarkable interesting about the School for the Blind is what they have been able to do there. That is why I think this study in the next two years will be beneficial because we do have something we can already see about the way they do outreach. They are not going residential treatment any more in the same sense that we have resident students at the School for the Deaf, but they have a display case with a small number of assisted technology devices that would help people with vision impairment. They have a web site where I can go on and you can go on, if we know somebody that has a vision impairment. Some are just handy for ordinary folks to make their life easier. They are doing a really good job making those kinds of devices available to people who didn't even know there was such a thing. (Discussed a case in with Sen. Delong's wife Ilene in West Fargo)

There are other vision impaired people that come along that are not just related to working.

Adapting to the work place is different from adapting to the home. We are trying to figure out how to make it unduplicative and comprehensive throughout the whole state for everybody.

Senator Warner:(11.9) I am just looking at services. Would the house be open to adding language which limit things so they would provide un-duplicating services?

Rep. Weisz:(12.3) That is what I am comfortable with now. I think definitely Senator Warner would help some of the concerns we are having. I am trying to myself to think how else to resolve this impasse.

Senator Warner:(12.9) Could I suggest that on page 3, line 26, the School for the Deaf may provide service to adults who are hard of hearing or hearing impaired who are not otherwise served by state entity. Then they would have to make a case by case evaluation based on the records from this. If they could get something from Voc Rehab they couldn't provide that service if they didn't meet the criteria.

Senator Dever:(14.5) My mother became legally blind in the late 80's in her early 60's. She checked with some of those agencies for assistance to the blind and found it was only for people being able to go back to work and my mother doesn't take no for an answer. Because of her persistence there are services available now that might not have otherwise been available. As a member of the Agent Counsel and the Association to the Blind and several agencies. The biggest problem they had then was that people that had those problems had no idea what services were available.

Chairman Brusegaard: Do you have any response to what Senator Warner is talking about?

Rep. Weisz: I don't have a problem with the language. I don't know if it solves all my concerns. I definitely think it does address some of them. Will probably know at the next meeting.

Senator J. Lee:(15.9) Rather than just trying to work this here. Could we work on concept and try to make it say what we want it to say with the help of our intern? Are you really opposed to having any services provided during this time or is there a general feeling there could be some without extending the budget. If that study stays in 1013 that we are going as a legislative body be a whole better informed about this two years from now than we are now.

Chairman Brusegaard:It has been my experience that state entities go first in their budgets in the next biennium.

Senator J. Lee:(17.3) I have been involved with the Board of Protection Advocacy for quite awhile and I have been quite involved with IPAD and that and I think they provide remarkable people who need assisted technology to allow them to function, in many cases, in their homes instead of in much more expensive institutional settings. I can't be that absolute about whether or not we are going to allow someone who has expertise to share it with somebody who might be able to benefit from it without adding a nickel to the budget.

Chairman Brusegaard: Sometimes I don't look at it in absolute.

Senator J. Lee:(18.0) I am a math major and I love dealing in black and white. I love real answers. Everything in human services is gray. I see allot of the good works that the School of the Blind has available now for the whole population and they don't have any facility. It is a little place in Grand Forks. Part of the problems that I have encountered is that vocational rehab people think they are the only folks who really need IPAD and nothing could be further from the truth. They have an extremely different mission from people going to work.

Rep. Weisz: (19.2) Do they charge for their services?

Senator J. Lee: I don't recall it anymore. Obviously the devices people purchase are paid for, but I can't answer the questions about the services. I have no problem with School of the Deaf charging. Because I think they should be able to.

Rep. Weisz: That is some my concern too. If we are going to start a program and we will fund it next time so all of a sudden it will be there and we will have to fund something that partially we can call up the committee; yea appropriations with these numbers. Also when we look at developing new policy or expanding we look at the cost to the state. Is this new program policy going to be worth the cost on the other end. We know there is a cost and we need to know how to handle it and how many. It helps us get a handle on where this might be going.

Senator Dever:(21.3) What if we eliminated section 7 and left section 8? So they are working only with other entities that provide those services.

Chairman Brusegaard: So I hope that Rep. Weisz will think about Rep. Dever's idea and he will, if that is not acceptable, come up with an amendment that will be. I would have no problem with a sunset clause either.

Hearing closed (22.6)

Chairman Brusegaard:(22.9) reopened the conference committee back to order on HB 1231.

Roll call: Chairman Brusegaard, Senator Lee, Senator Warner, Senator Dever, Rep. Weisz. All present; Senator Warner absent.

Rep. Weisz made a motion that the Senate would recede from its amendments and amend to include all the changes the Senate made except delete section 7, 9 and on section 8 change the language. That everyone has in front of them. I realize that it is a little confusing but because of the time frame Luke didn't have time to get it completed.

Senator Dever: I think the Senate Recedes then you would be amending 0200 so it would be to add section 7 to include the language.

Rep. Weisz: You are right. You receded so all the amendments are gone and we are stuck with the house bill. So we would amend to change the language on page 1, line 8 to may and add a new section 7 that would be the language you have in front of you here. That would be my motion. **Seconded by Senator Lee.**

Vote 5 Yes 0 No 1 Absent Carrier: Rep. Brusegaard

(26.8)

#1

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)

Bill Number HB 1231 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4/6/05

Your Conference Committee Human Services / Approp.

For the Senate:

For the House:

| | YES / NO | | YES / NO |
|------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Sen Deuel | / ✓ | Rep Brusegaard | / ✓ |
| Sen J Lee | / ✓ | Rep Weiss | / ✓ |
| Sen Warner | / ✓ | Rep Sandvig | / ✓ |

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

Motion for House to accede to Senate and's
the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) _____ -- _____

Motion failed

____, and place _____ on the Seventh order.

____, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place _____ on the
Seventh order:

____, having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged
and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) _____ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE:

CARRIER:

LC NO. _____ of amendment

LC NO. _____ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

MOTION MADE BY:

SECONDED BY:

VOTE COUNT ____ YES ____ NO ____ ABSENT

Revised 4/1/05

Conference Committee Amendments to Engrossed HB 1231 (50313.0202) - 04/07/2005

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1320 and 1321 of the House Journal and pages 976 and 977 of the Senate Journal and that Engrossed House Bill No. 1231 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after "to" insert "create and enact a new section to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing-impaired; and to"

Page 1, line 8, replace "must" with "may"

Conference Committee Amendments to Engrossed HB 1231 (50313.0202) - 04/07/2005

Page 3, after line 20, insert:

"SECTION 7. A new section to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Provision of services - Collaboration - Competition. The school for the deaf may collaborate with public and private entities for the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing-impaired. The school for the deaf may not compete with any public or private entity offering the same services within a region."

Renumber accordingly

#2

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE) - H20

Bill Number HB 1231 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4-7-05

Your Conference Committee

For the Senate:

YES / NO

Sen Deuer Chum ✓
Sen J. Lee ✓
Sen Warner AB

For the House:

YES / NO

Rep Brusegaard ^{Chum} ✓
Rep Weisz ✓
Rep Sanding ✓

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) 1320 -- 1321

____, and place _____ on the Seventh order.

✓, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place HB 1231 on the Seventh order:

____, having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) HB 1231 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: 4-7-05

CARRIER:

Rep Brusegaard

LC NO.

of amendment

LC NO.

of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted
Statement of purpose of amendment

MOTION MADE BY:

Rep Weisz

SECONDED BY:

Sen Lee

VOTE COUNT

5 YES 0 NO 1 ABSENT

Revised 4/1/05

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1231, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Dever, J. Lee, Warner and Reps. Brusegaard, Weisz, Sandvig) recommends that the **SENATE RECEDE** from the Senate amendments on HJ pages 1320-1321, adopt amendments as follows, and place HB 1231 on the Seventh order:

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1320 and 1321 of the House Journal and pages 976 and 977 of the Senate Journal and that Engrossed House Bill No. 1231 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after "to" insert "create and enact a new section to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing-impaired; and to"

Page 1, line 8, replace "must" with "may"

Page 3, after line 20, insert:

"SECTION 7. A new section to chapter 25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Provision of services - Collaboration - Competition. The school for the deaf may collaborate with public and private entities for the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing-impaired. The school for the deaf may not compete with any public or private entity offering the same services within a region."

Renumber accordingly

Engrossed HB 1231 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1231

North Dakota Association of the Deaf, inc.

**Testimony
House Bill #1231
House Human Services Committee
January 17, 2005**

Chairman Price and members of the House Human Services Committee, the North Dakota Association of the Deaf thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the House Bill #1231. I am Mark Hill, the lobbyist and Vice-President for the North Dakota Association of the Deaf.

The North Dakota Association of the Deaf do support the school's plan to expand its scope by providing its limited adult services and also, working with other services like the vocational rehabilitation programs, independent living centers, CSD (formerly Communication Service for the Deaf), and other services that already provide.

We request for a do-pass recommendation on House Bill 1231. I appreciate this opportunity to testify to the committee on the behalf of the North Dakota Association of the Deaf

Thank you.

**Mark Hill
Lobbyist #52
Vice president
North Dakota Association of the Deaf, inc.
1617 2nd St. N.
Fargo, ND 58102**

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

CLARA SUE PRICE, CHAIRMAN

HOUSE BILL 1231

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

AGENCY 252

JANUARY 26, 2005

ROCKLYN G. COFER, SUPT.

(1)

January 26, 2005

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
Human Services Committee
Clara Sue Price, Chairperson**

Chairperson Price and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eric Lysne and I am the Business Manager at the ND School for the Deaf (NDSD). I am here for Rocklyn Cofer, Supt at NDSD, who is out ill. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill No. 1231.

Dr. Wayne Sanstead, State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, commissioned the formation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to study the status of the ND School for the Deaf and tender advisory recommendations to the State Superintendent for further consideration, deliberation, and action.

The purpose of the study was to achieve consensus from the deaf community, Devils Lake community, and the NDSD staff on how to provide legislatively or constitutionally mandated services in a cost effective manner and identify expanded services and propose legislation.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force study and process were intended to involve a broad base of stakeholder organizations that are affiliated with and committed to serving North Dakota's deaf and hard of hearing population.

Representatives from the following organizations served on the Task Force: City of Devils Lake, ND State Legislature, Ramsey County, Devils Lake School District, Lake Region State College, ND Department of Public Instruction, ND Vision Services/School for the Blind, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Communication Services for the Deaf of ND, in addition to staff from NDSD, and numerous other public governmental, profit, and nonprofit organizations.

One of the changes recommended by the Task Force was to:

Expand the mission of the North Dakota School for the Deaf to permit the future delivery of non-duplicatory programs and services to deaf and hard of hearing adults over the age of 21.

We are not asking for any additional funding to expand services to include adults. We are proposing to provide the services within our appropriation under House Bill 1013.

NDSD has the resources to expand its outreach program to include adult services. We will determine personnel resources necessary as our program evolves during the 2005-07 biennium and reinvest existing resources by reclassifying a position(s) to fulfill the needs.

I respectfully request your support in favor of this bill, which will allow NDSD to evolve with the times and better meet the needs of the entire deaf and hard of hearing population of North Dakota and continue to make the school a viable entity for the 21st century.

Thank you!

Eric Lysne, Business Manager
ND School for the Deaf

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
House Human Services Committee
January 26, 2005**

**By David Zimmerman, Physical Education and Health Teacher
North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD)
701-662-9000 (TTY)**

Committee Chairman Representative Clara Sue Price and members of the Committee: the following written testimony is provided by David Zimmerman, Physical Education and Health teacher, North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD). The testimony is in support of *House Bill No. 1231* that endorses the expansion of NDSD's outreach services to include individuals, deaf or hard of hearing, who are over the age of 21 and endorses NDSD's collaboration with public and private entities in order to assist in identification of need and provision of services.

Will additional state funds be required to implement *House Bill 1231*? Members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force discussed the question and concluded that expansion of services to the adult population could likely be provided without the need for additional appropriations because many programs already in place for students could be made accessible to the adult population as well. Some sharable resources include:

- 1) The NDSD Resource Library that contains one of the largest book collections in the state on various topics related to the field of education, deafness and communication. The Resource Library also houses the state's only Captioned Media Program (CMP) – the CMP has thousands of educational captioned video tapes available for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Both the Resource Center and the CMP could be promoted for use by the adult population.
- 2) The ND School for the Deaf maintains two interactive television network classrooms – the technology is being used to transmit classes, workshops and inservices to all areas of the state. Technology is expandable and could encompass training to adults as well.
- 3) The ND School for the Deaf recently established the ND Captioning Center. Its technology enables the encoding (burning) of captions onto videos and CD's thus making the audio portion visible/readable to individuals with hearing loss. The captioning services are currently provided to K-12 schools however the captioning services could be provided for all individuals with hearing loss.
- 4) Most importantly, the ND School for the Deaf has a qualified staff of outreach professionals situated in four different locations around ND. Together they encompass the entire state but are currently limited to working with students aged 21 or younger. These specially trained professionals understand the challenges presented by the loss of hearing and have the knowledge and expertise necessary to provide assistance to individuals of all ages who are learning to cope with the ramifications of their hearing loss.

In order to keep up with progress, change is necessary. The ND School for the Deaf has seen a steady progression of change and in recent years the school has evolved into one of the state's primary resource centers on deafness and hearing loss. In order for the ND School for the Deaf to continue its natural progression forward, it can not be limited by the parameters of age or confined to the K-12 classroom. Outreach programs at the North Dakota School for the Deaf are in place and the school has what it takes to expand services to the adult population. We respectfully request your support in our school's endeavor to reach out and expand services to include all the citizens of North Dakota by endorsing *House Bill 1231*. Thank you.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
House Human Services Committee
January 26, 2005
By Lilia Bakken, Communications Coordinator
North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD)
701-662-9000

Committee Chairman Representative Clara Sue Price and members of the committee: the following written testimony is provided by Lilia Bakken, Communications Coordinator, North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD). The testimony is in support of *House Bill No. 1231* that endorses the expansion of NDSD's outreach services to include individuals, deaf or hard of hearing, who are over the age of 21 and endorses NDSD's collaboration with public and private entities in order to assist in identification of need and provision of services.

Did you know that North Dakota's older adult population (aged 65 and older) is one of the highest in the nation? In the 2000 census, North Dakota's population was 633,837. Of that number, 94,478 or 14.9 percent of North Dakota citizens were aged 65 or older. By the year 2010, the US Census estimates that North Dakota's elder population will climb to 110,478 - an increase of nearly 17%.

Research completed by the *John Hopkins Center for Hearing and Balance* shows that from 50 to 60 percent of all senior citizens experience some form of hearing loss. That means by 2010, North Dakota will have more than 55,000 seniors who will struggle with the affects of hearing loss and its impact on their lives.

According to a 2004 survey conducted by the AARP (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons) North Dakota seniors identified independence with age (62%) as one of their major priorities. Seniors want services that will allow them to remain independent and that will promote a better lifestyle. When someone suffers from hearing loss, being fitted with a hearing aid is not the cure-all remedy. In addition to hearing aids, elderly deaf or hard of hearing persons may want classes in speechreading (lipreading) or auditory training in order to learn how to maximize the use of their residual hearing. Perhaps some will need to learn sign language or practice other communication tips that will assist them in their daily lives. Seniors need to have access to these services and know how to obtain them.

It is difficult for the average person to keep up with advancements in technology. It is especially true of senior citizens. It's important that seniors be informed of current technological trends and how technology can be used to enhance their lives. Devices like telephone amplifiers, visual signal fire alarms, doorbells and sound sensors as well as telecommunication phone systems (TTY's) are available to help ease communication barriers that confront seniors. By providing seniors with current information, demonstrations and training, they may take advantage of a variety of listening devices available to assist them.

Seniors will encounter frustration as they learn to cope with the loss of their hearing. The North Dakota School for the Deaf can be there to help. A knowledgeable staff of outreach workers can provide training in areas of communication such as speechreading, auditory listening and manual communication or provide them with assistance in learning to use a variety of assistive listening devices. The North Dakota School for the Deaf has the expertise necessary to help support the state's growing senior population.

We respectfully request your support in ND School for the Deaf's endeavor to expand services to all citizens of North Dakota by endorsing *House Bill 1231*. Thank you.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
House Human Services Committee
January 26, 2005
By Carol Lybeck, Outreach Coordinator
North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD)
701-662-9000**

Committee Chairperson Representative Clara Sue Price and members of the Committee: My name is Carol Lybeck, Outreach Coordinator at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. This testimony is in support of House Bill No. 1231 endorsing the provision of adult services and the collaboration with agencies and professionals to develop appropriate and effective plans that will in the long run help individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, "reach their maximum potential and lead fulfilling adult lives."

You have heard earlier testimony of the need for support services for North Dakota's senior citizens with hearing loss. This population is primarily comprised of "late-deafened" adults, or those who have acquired a hearing loss after the development of language. I would like to speak about the adult population of deaf and hard of hearing individuals who have had a hearing loss since birth, or early childhood. The needs of this group are significantly different from those of individuals who have lost hearing later in life. Specifically, needs related to language and literacy skills used in independent, adult life at home, in the community and on the job.

Because hearing loss is a low-incidence disability/challenge, most employers and adult service agencies may never have come in contact with a deaf or hard of hearing person. More than that, they may have a very limited understanding of what it is like to have a hearing loss. Hearing loss is not as obvious a factor as a physical disability, but it continues to be a powerful deterrent to some potential employers. Further, service providers working in the adult vocational rehabilitation areas may not have specific training regarding the unique needs individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing have.

Approval of HB 1231 would allow NDSD to expand current support services to deaf and hard of hearing population who require assistance in successfully transitioning to a vocational training or job setting. This expansion and enhancement of current services will include, but is not limited to:

- a. Professional development training for vocational rehabilitation center staff, and other service providers working with adults who are deaf and hard of hearing.**
- b. Team service provision during the assessment process of identifying the strengths and needs of clients who are deaf and hard of hearing in order to begin planning appropriate support services. This includes direct provision of assessment tools to clients.**

- c. Provision of resources, consultation and expertise related to hearing loss to case managers and community service providers to ensure successful school or job placement.**
- d. Training to current and potential employers regarding accommodations and strategies for hiring a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.**

In summary, the unique needs and challenges presented by hearing loss that must be addressed for children also must be addressed in the adult population. Doing so will increase the quality of services already in place for this population and further the goal of all North Dakota citizens being able to successfully function and contribute to their communities. Current resources and travel time could be utilized to provide many of these services. Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 1231.

January 18, 2005

#5

Legislators,

Our daughter received a certificate of completion from NDSD in May 2004. That was the last year she was eligible to receive services at the state school as she turned 21 years old that year. She was a deaf special needs student. Her special needs did not go away when she turned 21 years old and currently there isn't a program that meets her needs.

We urge legislative change so that our daughter and other deaf and special needs adults can continue to receive the services they need to hold employment and to be as independent as possible in their adult life.

Former services she had received from NDSD included:

Transition to Employment with support for job training and a job coach with sign language abilities for communication.

Residential: Supervision and help with personal needs and independent living by person(s) who can communicate using sign language.

Social and emotional needs: access to Deaf culture, Deaf peers, and others who can communicate with her using sign language.

Access to interpreter services.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Marvin Mead
Cindy Mead

Marvin and Cindy Mead
819 4th street NE
Devils Lake, North Dakota 58301

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
House Human Services Committee
January 26, 2005**

**By Carmen Grove Suminski, Superintendent
North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind (NDVS/SB)
701-795-2708**

#1

Committee Chairman Representative Clara Sue Price and Members of the Committee:
My name is Carmen Grove Suminski, and I am the superintendent of NDVS/SB. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill No. 1231.

This bill has been drafted based on the recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Task Force which met once in December 2003 and in January, March, and May of 2004. Membership of this group encompassed the Devils Lake community, consumers who were deaf and hearing impaired plus representation from the School for the Deaf, Department of Public Instruction, local public schools, Vocational Rehabilitation, and higher education.

This bill would follow up on the recommendation that the School for the Deaf "Identify expanded services and propose legislation." As a member of this Blue Ribbon Task Force, I support the recommendation of expanded services to better meet the needs of the people in our state. This bill continues the school setting as is currently being provided, continues the home intervention program for infants, preschoolers and their families, enhances outreach services, plus creates provisions for adult services, collaboration, and a data base.

July 1, 2001, legislation was adopted to officially change the name of School for the Blind to North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind and also to clarify language to serve persons who are blind or visually impaired of all ages. This has proved to be beneficial for consumers enabling them to take full advantage of the vision specific resources including instruction in orientation and mobility, technology, vocational, daily living skills, and Braille. The NDVS/SB Client Services Data states the following:

1999-2001 Biennium: 82 adults were served

2001-2003 Biennium: 174 adults were served

July 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004: 160 adults were served

I thank you for your sincere interest and commitment to the people of our state. Please know that the staff of NDVS/SB will continue its collaboration with the School for the Deaf in the best interest of needs of the people in our state.

Thank you.

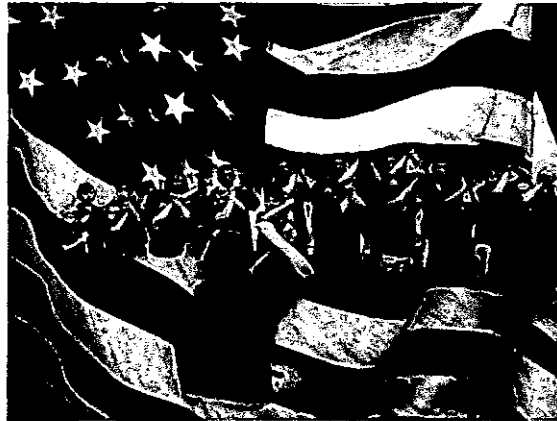
Carmen Grove Suminski
Superintendent
NDVS/SB

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Judy Lee, Chairman

2005-07 Budget Hearing – HB 1231 Agency 252

March 16, 2005



NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Rocklyn G. Cofer, Superintendent



“Looking back with pride, looking forward with confidence.”

Serving deaf and hard of hearing children since 1890.

March 16, 2005

Testimony for HB 1231
Senate Human Services Committee
Judy Lee, Chairman

Chairman Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rocklyn Cofer, Superintendent of the North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSB). I give this testimony in support of **HB 1231**.

In the fall of 2003, Dr. Wayne Sanstead, State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, appointed members of a Blue Ribbon Task Force (*see attachment*) to study the status of the programs at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. The mission of this group was to provide advisory recommendations to Dr. Sanstead for further consideration, deliberation, and action.

The Task Force members were from a broad base of stakeholders and were asked to achieve a consensus from the deaf community, Devils Lake Community, parents, stakeholder agencies, and NDSB staff on how to provide legislatively and or constitutionally mandated services in a cost effective manner and identify expanded services and propose legislation.

Summary of Report Outcomes/Recommendations

- Expansion of Outreach Services
- Expand mission of NDSB to include non-duplicated programs and services to deaf and hard of hearing adults over the age of 21.
- Consolidation of Dorm Spaces
- Consolidation of Classroom Spaces
- Lease of Unused Space
- Development of a Fee Schedule for Facilities Use
- Reduction of FTEs/staff through Reclassification, Retirement, and or Attrition
- Development of an Energy Management Plan
- Development of Partnerships and Collaborations with Local Agencies to Share Costs/Staff

House Bill 1231 is the legislation submitted to the 59th Legislative Assembly to allow NDSB to **provide education and training and serve as a resource and referral center for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired.**

We are not asking for any additional funding to expand services and are proposing to provide these expanded services with the current appropriation under HB 1013. NDSB has the resources to expand its outreach services to include services to those over the age

of 21. We will determine the personnel resources necessary as our program evolves during the 2005-2007 biennium and reinvest our existing resources as per the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force by reclassifying a position to fill those needs.

Information we got yesterday in a study commissioned by NDSD, to be done by the North Dakota State Data Center (*see attachment "Hearing Impairment Among North Dakotans, 2005 Report"*), projects a 20% increase in individuals with hearing impairment in the 15 years and older age group over the next 10 years. We feel this projected increase will place more demands on the system and NDSD will be able to help serve this growing population in the years to come.

NDSD will work with stakeholders and current service providers to assure there will be unduplicated services provided to the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of North Dakota. We are happy to be given the chance to show that we can be, and will be, a responsible partner in this effort.

I respectfully request your support in favor of this bill, which will allow NDSD to evolve with the times to better serve the needs of the entire deaf and hard of hearing population of North Dakota and to make NDSD a viable entity for the 21st century.

Thank you!

Rocklyn Cofer, Superintendent
ND School for the Deaf

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
Senate Human Services Committee
March 16, 2005**

**By David Zimmerman, Physical Education and Health Teacher
North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD)
701-662-9000 (TTY)**

Chairman Senator Judy Lee and members of the Committee: the following written testimony is provided by David Zimmerman, Physical Education and Health teacher, North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD). The testimony is in support of *House Bill No. 1231* that endorses the expansion of NDSD's outreach services to include individuals, deaf or hard of hearing, who are over the age of 21 and endorses NDSD's collaboration with public and private entities in order to assist in identification of need and provision of services.

The North Dakota School for the Deaf has many fine programs in place to serve students who are deaf and hard of hearing. We are proposing that some of these programs be made accessible to the adult deaf and hard of hearing population as well. It is feasible for the ND School for the Deaf to accommodate adults without the need for additional state funds. Some programs and resources that our school utilizes with students include:

- 1) The NDSD Resource Library that contains one of the largest book collections in the state on topics related to the field of education, deafness and communication. The Resource Library also houses the North Dakota's only Captioned Media Program (CMP) – the CMP has thousands of educational captioned video tapes available for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The resources in both the Resource Center and the CMP could be loaned out to the adult population.
- 2) The ND School for the Deaf maintains two interactive television network classrooms – the technology is being used to transmit classes, workshops and inservices to all areas of the state. Technology is expandable and could encompass training to adults as well.
- 3) The ND School for the Deaf recently established the ND Captioning Center. Its technology enables the encoding (burning) of captions onto videos and CD's thus making the audio portion visible/readable to individuals with hearing loss. The captioning services are currently provided to K-12 schools however the captioning services could be provided for all individuals with hearing loss.
- 4) Most importantly, the ND School for the Deaf has a qualified staff of outreach professionals situated in four different locations around ND. Together they encompass the entire state but are currently limited to working with students aged 21 or younger. These specially trained professionals understand the challenges presented by the loss of hearing and have the knowledge and expertise necessary to provide assistance to individuals of all ages who are learning to cope with the ramifications of their hearing loss.

Progress requires change. The ND School for the Deaf has seen a steady progression of change and in recent years the school has evolved into one of the state's primary resource

centers on deafness and hearing loss. In order for the ND School for the Deaf to continue its natural progression forward, we should not be limited by the parameters of age or confined to the K-12 classroom. Outreach programs at the North Dakota School for the Deaf are in place and the school has what it takes to expand its services to include the adult population. We respectfully request your support in our school's endeavor to reach out and expand services to include all the citizens of North Dakota by endorsing *House Bill 1231*. Thank you.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
Senate Human Services Committee
March 16, 2005**

**By Lilia Bakken, Communications Coordinator
North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD), 701-662-9000**

Chairman Judy Lee and members of the committee: my name is Lilia Bakken. I am Communications Coordinator at the North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD). My testimony is in support of *House Bill No. 1231* that endorses the expansion of NDSD's outreach services to include individuals, deaf or hard of hearing, who are over 21 years of age.

North Dakota's older adult population (aged 65 and older) is one of the highest in the nation. In the 2000 census, North Dakota's population was 633,837. Of that number, 94,478 citizens (14.9 %) were aged 65 or older. By the year 2010, the US Census estimates that North Dakota's elder population will rise to 110,478.

Johns Hopkins Center for Hearing and Balance completed research which showed that 50 to 60 percent of all senior citizens experience some form of hearing loss. That means by 2010, North Dakota will have more than 55,000 seniors who will struggle with the effects of hearing loss and its impact on their lives.

In 2004 the *AARP* (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons) conducted a survey of North Dakota seniors – 62% identified *independence with age* as one of their major priorities. Seniors want services that will allow them to remain independent and that will promote a better lifestyle. When someone suffers from hearing loss, being fitted with a hearing aid is not the cure-all remedy to maintaining a normal lifestyle. In addition to hearing aids, elderly deaf or hard of hearing individuals may want to learn speechreading skills (lipreading) or auditory training in order to learn how to maximize the use of their residual hearing. Others may want to learn sign language or practice other communication tips that will assist them in their daily lives. Seniors need to have ready access to these services and know how to obtain them.

It is difficult for the average person to keep up with advancements in technology. It is also true of senior citizens. It is important that seniors with hearing loss be informed of current technological trends and how technology can be used to enhance their lives. Devices like telephone amplifiers, visual signal fire alarms, doorbells and sound sensors as well as telecommunication phone systems (TTY's) are available to help ease communication barriers that confront seniors. By providing seniors with current information, demonstrations and training, they may take advantage of a variety of listening devices available to assist them.

Seniors will encounter frustration as they learn to cope with the loss of their hearing. The North Dakota School for the Deaf can be there to help. A knowledgeable staff of outreach workers can assist other agencies to provide training in areas of communication such as speechreading, auditory listening and manual communication or provide them with assistance in learning to use a variety of assistive listening devices. The North

Dakota School for the Deaf has the expertise necessary to assist the state's growing population of senior citizens who will suffer from hearing loss.

We respectfully request your support in ND School for the Deaf's endeavor to expand services to all citizens of North Dakota by endorsing *House Bill 1231*. Thank you.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1231

Senate Human Services Committee

March 16, 2005

By Carol Lybeck, Outreach Coordinator

North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD)

701-662-9000

Committee Chairperson Senator Judy Lee and members of the Committee: My name is Carol Lybeck, Outreach Coordinator at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. This testimony is in support of House Bill No.1231 endorsing the provision of services to all citizens of North Dakota and the collaboration with agencies and professionals to develop appropriate and effective plans that will in the long run help individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, "reach their maximum potential and lead fulfilling adult lives."

You have heard earlier testimony of the need for support services for North Dakota's senior citizens with hearing loss. This population is primarily comprised of "late-deafened" adults, or those who have acquired a hearing loss after the development of language. I would like to speak about the adult population of deaf and hard of hearing individuals who have had a hearing loss since birth, or early childhood. The needs of this group are significantly different from those of individuals who have lost hearing later in life. Specifically, needs related to language and literacy skills used in independent, adult life at home, in the community and on the job.

Because hearing loss is a low-incidence disability/challenge, most employers and adult service agencies may never have come in contact with a deaf or hard of hearing person. More than that, they may have a very limited understanding of what it is like to have a hearing loss. Hearing loss is not as obvious a factor as a physical disability, but it continues to be a powerful deterrent to some potential employers. Further, service providers working in the adult vocational rehabilitation areas may not have specific training regarding the unique needs individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing have.

Approval of HB 1231 would allow NDSD to expand current support services to deaf and hard of hearing population who require assistance in successfully transitioning to a vocational training or job setting. This expansion and enhancement of current services will include, but is not limited to:

- a. Provide technical assistance to state and private agencies on request in order to ensure accessibility for deaf/hard of hearing people.**
- b. Professional development training for vocational rehabilitation center staff, and other service providers working with clients who are deaf and hard of hearing.**

- c. Team service provision during the assessment process of identifying the strengths and needs of clients who are deaf and hard of hearing in order to begin planning appropriate support services. This includes direct provision of assessment tools to clients.
- d. Provision of resources, consultation and expertise related to hearing loss to case managers and community service providers to ensure successful school or job placement.
- e. Training to current and potential employers regarding accommodations and strategies for hiring a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- f. Ensure quality services for deaf and hard of hearing and serve as an information referral source for the state on the subject of deafness and hearing loss.

In summary, the unique needs and challenges presented by hearing loss must be addressed for all individuals. Doing so will increase the quality of services already in place for this population and further the goal of all North Dakota citizens being able to successfully function and contribute to their communities. Current resources and travel time could be utilized to provide many of these services. Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 1231.

North Dakota Association of the Deaf

Testimony
House Bill #1231
Senate Human Services Committee
March 16, 2005

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, the North Dakota Association of the Deaf thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the House Bill #1231. I am Mark Hill, the lobbyist and Vice-President for the North Dakota Association of the Deaf.

The North Dakota Association of the Deaf do support the school's plan to expand its scope by providing its limited adult services and also, working with other services like the vocational rehabilitation programs, independent living centers, CSD (formerly Communication Service for the Deaf), and other services that already provide.

We request for a do-pass recommendation on House Bill 1231. I appreciate this opportunity to testify to the committee on the behalf of the North Dakota Association of the Deaf

Thank you.

Mark Hill
Lobbyist #52
Vice president
North Dakota Association of the Deaf, inc.
1617 2nd St. N.
Fargo, ND 58102

Senate Bill 1231 3/16/05

● My name is Larry Mg. My wife's name is Sally. Our son Andrew graduated from NDSD in Spring of 2003. He is currently with the Minit Vocational Workshop in Minit and lives in one of their buildings there.

Andy works 4 nights a week in Food service at the Minit Air Free Bar.

● Our goal for our son has always been for him to become as independent as possible.

The last 12 months have been hectic for us as both his parents and legal guardians - to try to help him make the transition from school to the workplace as smooth as possible.

● I believe this bill would help

2

Make this transition smoother for both the deaf adult involved and for the support staff at a place like the rotational workshop.

When a deaf individual turns 21 - most of the deaf expertise in his or her life disappears - yet a deaf adult's individual needs; physical, emotional, and social; continue to need to be met. Ongoing support is needed to maximize their potential in these three areas. For example - where does a deaf adult go for psychological counseling?

At the workshop, Andy does have one person on staff who is deaf and signs, yet the rest of the staff struggles to communicate with him.

● I feel the passage of this bill will certainly make it easier and more feasible for the vocational workshop staff to receive sign language instruction.

Right now my wife and I have been providing the staff at the workshop with verbal encouragement and sign language video tapes to those who request it - but this bill would mean that NDSD would be a much more readily available resource - both for information and for help in providing physical assistance devices and involvement in education such as sign language instruction.

I also believe this bill would make interpreter services more readily available - a service which in turn will help meet

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deaf adults' physical, emotional, and social needs.

All of us, whether we are parents, legislators, or deaf adults, our goal is to help these deaf and special needs adults become as independent as possible.

My wife and I know from many years of personal involvement working with the staff at NDSD, that the staff is extremely competent and have the expertise to work with individuals that have a hearing loss, whether that individual is under or over 21 years of age.

Again, I believe that passing this bill will certainly help to provide ongoing support to help maximizing a deaf adult's potential. Thank you.

Larry May
3560 85th St. NW. (701) 784-5963

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1231
Senate Human Services Committee
March 16, 2005
By Carmen Grove Suminski, Superintendent
North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind (NDVS/SB)
701-795-2708**

Committee Chairman Senator Judy Lee and Members of the Committee: My name is Carmen Grove Suminski, and I am the superintendent of NDVS/SB. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill No. 1231.

This bill has been drafted based on the recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Task Force which met once in December 2003 and in January, March, and May of 2004. Membership of this group encompassed the Devils Lake community, consumers who were deaf and hearing impaired plus representation from the School for the Deaf, Department of Public Instruction, local public schools, Vocational Rehabilitation, and higher education.

This bill would follow up on the recommendation that the School for the Deaf "Identify expanded services and propose legislation." As a member of this Blue Ribbon Task Force, I support the recommendation of expanded services to better meet the needs of the people in our state. This bill continues the school setting as is currently being provided, continues the home intervention program for infants, preschoolers and their families, enhances outreach services, plus creates provisions for adult services, collaboration, and a data base.

July 1, 2001, legislation was adopted to officially change the name of School for the Blind to North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind and also to clarify language to serve persons who are blind or visually impaired of all ages. This has proved to be beneficial for consumers enabling them to take full advantage of the vision specific resources including instruction in orientation and mobility, technology, vocational, daily living skills, and Braille. The NDVS/SB Client Services Data states the following:

1999-2001 Biennium: 82 adults were served

2001-2003 Biennium: 174 adults were served

July 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004: 160 adults were served

I thank you for your sincere interest and commitment to the people of our state. Please know that the staff of NDVS/SB will continue its collaboration with the School for the Deaf in the best interest of needs of the people in our state.

Thank you.

Carmen Grove Suminski
Superintendent
NDVS/SB

C. Suminski

North Dakota School for the Deaf Blue Ribbon Panel Appointees (2003)

Senator Jack Traynor, District 15

Representative Gene Nicholas, District 15

Representative Dennis Johnson, District 15

Dr. Wayne Sanstead, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dr. Richard Kunkel, President, N.D. Board of Higher Education

Dr. Sharon Etemad, President, Lake Region State College

Mayor Fred Bott, Devils Lake City Commission

Joe Belford, Ramsey County Commission

Steve Swiontek, Superintendent, Devils Lake Public Schools

Connie Hovendick, Director, Lake Region Special Education Unit

Nancy Skorheim, Regional Coordinator, D.P.I. Special Education and Liaison for N.D. School for the Deaf

Denise Wolf, Director, Lake Area Career and Technology Center

Nancy Lundon, Regional Director for Vocational Rehabilitation

Mark Hill, State Director for the N.D. Communications Services for the Deaf, Member of the Board of Directors for the N.D. Association for the Deaf

Terry Wallace, Director, Devils Lake Park Board

Greg Otis, Executive Director of Devils Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

Julius Sayler, NDSD Parent, President of Devils Lake Outdoor Club for the Deaf, Board of Directors for the N.D. Friends of Deaf Children Foundation

Carmen Suminski, Superintendent, N.D. School for the Blind/Vision Services

Rocky Cofer, Superintendent, N.D. School for the Deaf

Eric Lysne, Business Manager, N.D. School for the Deaf

Carol Lybeck, Coordinator, Outreach/ Parent Infant Program, N.D. School for the Deaf

Dwight Keck, Director of Facilities, N.D. School for the Deaf

Barb Duncan, Coordinator of Administrative Services, N.D. School for the Deaf

Scott Craven, Director of Student Life, N.D. School for the Deaf

Chuck Hawkins, Director of Food Service/ Housekeeping, N.D. School for the Deaf

Lilia Bakken, Coordinator of Communications Services and N.C.A. Steering Committee Co-Chair, N.D. School for the Deaf

Darlene Schoenfish, Director of Health Services, N.D. School for the Deaf

Kerry Olson-Rysavy, Technology Coordinator, N.D. School for the Deaf

Colleen Sanford, Coordinator, N.D. Deafblind Services Project

Mary Rutten, Instructor and N.C.A. Co-Chair, N.D. School for the Deaf

Diane Rice, Instructor and Counselor, N.D. School for the Deaf

Duane Knutson, NDSD Parent, Board Member at Large for the N.D. Ass'n. for the Deaf, and NDSD Staff

Eileen Gray, Coordinator, Sign Language Interpreter Program at Lake Region State College

April 6, 2005

Testimony for HB 1231
Conference Committee

Members of the Committee,

My name is Rocklyn Cofer, Superintendent of the North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD). I give this testimony in support of **HB 1231**.

In the fall of 2003, Dr. Wayne Sanstead, State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, appointed members of a Blue Ribbon Task Force (*see attachment*) to study the status of the programs at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. The mission of this group was to provide advisory recommendations to Dr. Sanstead for further consideration, deliberation, and action.

The Task Force members were from a broad base of stakeholders and were asked to achieve a consensus from the deaf community, Devils Lake Community, parents, stakeholder agencies, and NDSD staff on how to provide legislatively and or constitutionally mandated services in a cost effective manner and identify expanded services and propose legislation.

Summary of Report Outcomes/Recommendations

- Expansion of Outreach Services
- Expand mission of NDSD to include non-duplicated programs and services to deaf and hard of hearing adults over the age of 21.
- Consolidation of Dorm Spaces
- Consolidation of Classroom Spaces
- Lease of Unused Space
- Development of a Fee Schedule for Facilities Use
- Reduction of FTEs/staff through Reclassification, Retirement, and or Attrition
- Development of an Energy Management Plan
- Development of Partnerships and Collaborations with Local Agencies to Share Costs/Staff

House Bill 1231 is the legislation submitted to the 59th Legislative Assembly to allow NDSD to **provide education and training and serve as a resource and referral center for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired.**

We are not asking for any additional funding to expand services and are proposing to provide these expanded services with the current appropriation under HB 1013. NDSD has the resources to expand its outreach services to include services to those over the age

of 21. We will determine the personnel resources necessary as our program evolves during the 2005-2007 biennium and reinvest our existing resources as per the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force by reclassifying a position to fill those needs.

Information from a study, Hearing Impairment Among North Dakotans, 2005 Report, recently completed by the North Dakota State Data Center projects a 19.6% overall increase in individuals with hearing impairment in the 15 years and older age group over the next 10 years. We feel this projected increase will place more demands on the system and NDSD will be able to help serve this growing population in the years to come.

NDSD will work with stakeholders and current service providers to assure there will be unduplicated services provided to the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of North Dakota. We are happy to be given the chance to show that we can be, and will be, a responsible partner in this effort.

I respectfully request your support in favor of this bill, which will allow NDSD to evolve with the times to better serve the needs of the entire deaf and hard of hearing population of North Dakota and to make NDSD a viable entity for the 21st century.

Thank you!

Rocklyn Cofer, Superintendent
ND School for the Deaf

Proposed

Provision of services – Collaboration – Competition. The school for the deaf may collaborate with public and private entities for the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired. The school for the deaf may not compete with any public or private entity offering the same services within a region.