

Testimony
House Bill 1337 – Department of Human Services
House Political Subdivisions Committee
Representative Johnson, Chairman
February 3rd, 2011

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee, I am Alex C. Schweitzer, Superintendent of the North Dakota Developmental Center and the North Dakota State Hospital of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 1337.

The administration of the North Dakota Developmental Center (NDDC) contacted the Grafton Park Board and the City of Grafton prior to the preparation of the 2011 – 2013 Executive Budget recommendation to ascertain their interest in purchasing the land listed in this bill.

The North Dakota Developmental Center's transition initiative is preparing the facility for less population and one of the elements of this initiative is the renting or selling of underutilized or unused buildings and land.

The NDDC population has dropped from 143 individuals in 2005 to 103 individuals as of the date of this testimony. The facility expects to have 95 individuals at the facility by the end of the current biennium. The next goal would be to reduce the population to 67 individuals at the facility.

Because of the transition initiative the facility is reducing its workforce by 40.53 FTEs for the 2011 – 2013 biennium. One of these FTEs is a grounds and maintenance worker that primarily works in the area of snow removal and grass maintenance. The purchase of this property by the Grafton Park Board allows us to move property that no longer fits in the long range plan of the NDDC.

The NDDC is pleased the Grafton Park Board is interested in purchasing the land to meet their long term park and recreational needs.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions.

