

Testimony
Engrossed House Bill 1109– Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 17, 2015

Chairman Lee, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Karla Backman, State Long Term Care Ombudsman with the Department of Human Services (Department), Aging Services Division. I am here today in support of Engrossed House Bill 1109. This bill was introduced at the request of the Department.

The amendment to subsection 1 of North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) section 50-10.2-02 is to ensure all the exceptions are numbered; there is no change to intent or content.

The Bill also proposes to remove subsection 4 of N.D.C.C. section 50-10.2-02. With the ongoing development and presence of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program this section has become redundant. Local ombudsmen are assigned to each facility and they visit regularly to meet with the residents and family members about their concerns and issues especially as they relate to residents' rights. The local ombudsmen also provide consultation services to facility personnel regarding residents' rights. The Department retains documentation in a central database of all concerns and issues addressed by the local ombudsmen. Facilities also have resident councils that give voice to the residents regarding concerns within the facility.

The Long Term Care Association requested amendments to section 1, subsection m to clarify the language. The Department and the Association worked on amendments that were adopted by the House.

This concludes my testimony. I will address questions you may have.
Thank you.