

**Testimony**  
**Long-Term Care Committee**  
**Aging and Disability Resource Center**  
**Senator Dever, Chairman**  
**November 7, 2007**

Senator Dever and members of the Long-Term Care Committee, I am Linda Wright, Director of the Aging Services Division, Department of Human Services.

An unsolicited grant proposal to establish an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in North Dakota was submitted to the Administration on Aging in September, 2007. The proposal was submitted as outlined in Senate Bill 2070, which was approved by the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

The 2006 amendments to the Older Americans Act require the Assistant Secretary for Aging to implement Aging and Disability Resource Centers in all states:

- a. "to serve as visible and trusted sources of information on the full range of long-term care options, including both institutional and home and community based care, which are available in the community;
- b. to provide personalized and consumer-friendly assistance to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their care options;
- c. to provide coordinated and streamlined access to all publicly supported long-term care options so that consumers can obtain

- the care they need through a single intake, assessment, and eligibility determination process;
- d. to help individuals to plan ahead for their future long-term care needs; and
  - e. to assist (in coordination with the entities carrying out the health insurance information , counseling, and assistance program (receiving funding under section 4360 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C 1395b-4))in the States) beneficiaries, and prospective beneficiaries, under the Medicare program established under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) in understanding and accessing prescription drug and preventative health benefits under the provisions of, and amendments made by, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003."

Forty – three (43) states have received federal funding to establish Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The Administration on Aging informed the department that sufficient funding wasn't available in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, to fund North Dakota's application.

However, they assured the department that our application was on the top of the list, if sufficient funding is appropriated by Congress in the current federal fiscal year. As you are probably aware, the federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution. A final version of the Health and Human Services budget, which includes the Administration on Aging, may not be available until January, 2008.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time.