



P.O. Box 2081
Bismarck, ND 58502-2081
701.222.1854
veronica.zietz@thearcofbismarck.org
www.thearcofbismarck.org

Testimony of Support Senate Bill 2121
Human Services Committee
January 19, 2011

Good morning Madam Chair and members of Human Services Committee. My name is Veronica Zietz (#99); I am the Executive Director at The Arc of Bismarck and I'm here today representing both The Arc of Bismarck and The Arc of Cass County. The Arc is an organization that provides education and advocacy to people with disabilities to foster empowerment and full inclusion in the community.

The Arc supports Senate Bill 2121 which deals with the Developmental Disabilities Loan Fund. It is necessary to repeal Chapter 6-09.6, which provides guidelines to the DD loan fund. These guidelines are extremely outdated and thus not user-friendly. For instance, the interest rates provided in the current DD Loan Fund when enacted were appropriate, but are no longer competitive in relation to other loan providers.

The Arc believes it is necessary for competitive loans to be available to nonprofit organizations, to aid in the establishment of facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and physical disabilities. However, current Century Code does not allow for this; repealing the DD Loan Fund and transferring DD loans is the most practical and appropriate action to take in order to remedy this issue.

I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 2121. Thank you for your time and attention.