

**TESTIMONY**  
**Senate Bill 2165 – Direct Purchase from a Work Activity Center**  
**Senate I B & L**  
**Senator Klein, Chairman**  
**January 25, 2011**

Chairman Klein, members of the Senate I B & L Committee, I am Barbara Murry, Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers. I am here today to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2265, the direct purchase from a work activity center.

Providers may assist people with disabilities with employment and pre-employment activities in facility based work centers, in the community based Supported Employment – Extended Services program, or through other employment programs, often funded through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In spite of extensive efforts, options for employment for people with disabilities continue to be limited and people with disabilities have been identified as a under-employed target population.

This bill will expand options for people with disabilities who are served in a variety of settings, while assuring that any bids accepted must be fair market value.

The definition of a work activity center is as follows: **25-16.2-01. Work activity center - Definition.** As used in this chapter "work activity center" means a facility located in the state and operated by a nonprofit corporation organized for the primary purpose of employing and providing rehabilitative activities for physically handicapped, developmentally disabled, and chronically mentally ill persons.

This definition has been in law for many years and no longer clearly defines a specific group of licensed providers as the term “work activity” is no longer commonly used. I am suggesting an amendment that would add further clarification to organizations that are eligible for this set aside, so a list of eligible providers could be developed.

I am not recommending the definition of work activity be changed, as this may have unforeseen ramifications that need further review.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.