

**2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2152**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
1/18/2023

Relating to certification of recovery residences.

9:02 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the hearing to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** were present.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Operating certification
- Inspections
- Live training
- Sober living
- Recovery houses
- Substance use disorder

9:03 AM **Senator Lee, District 13**, introduces SB 2152 verbal testimony in favor.

9:07 AM **Lacresha Graham, Manager of Addiction Treatment and Recovery, Department of Behavioral Health Administrator, ND Department of Health and Human Services**, testified neutrally. #14203 #14204

9:16 AM **Judith Roberts, founder of Hope Manor Sober Living Homes of Bismarck, President National Sober Living Association**, representing self, with amendment testified in opposition. #14083

9:36 AM **Kerry Israel, Administrator/Operator of the Sanctuary Sober Living Home**, testified in opposition. #14221

9:39 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the hearing.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
1/18/2023

Relating to certification of recovery residences.

2:05 PM **Madam Chair Lee** called the meeting to order.

**Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** were present.

## **Committee Discussion Topics:**

- Medical treatment
- Smoke detectors

2:07 PM **Lindsey Pouliot Legislation Council Intern** provided information on recovery residence form. #14369, #14370

2:15 PM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the meeting.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
2/1/2023

Relating to certification of recovery residences.

3:40 PM **Madam Chair Lee** called the meeting to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** are present.

### **Committee Discussion Topics:**

- Excel spreadsheet
- Voluntary certification program
- Safe and sober living

Senator Hogan discusses recovery differences.

3:45 p.m. **Madam Chair Lee** closed the meeting.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
2/6/2023  
9:38 AM

Relating to certification of recovery residences.

9:38 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the meeting to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, Weston, Hogan** are present. **Senator K. Roers** was absent.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Voluntary registry

**Senator Lee** asks for discussion.

**Senator Hogan** discusses recovery differences.

**Senator Hogan** moved to adopt Amendment. LC 23.0098.01001

**Senator Weston** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	AB
Senator Kent Weston	Y

The motion passed 5-0-1.

**Senator Hogan** moved **DO PASS** as **AMENDED**.

**Senator Cleary** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	AB
Senator Kent Weston	Y

The motion passed 5-0-1.

Held open for Senator K. Roers.

**Senator K. Roers** votes yes at 11:23 AM on 2/6/2023 meeting.

**Senator Cleary** will carry SB 2152.

9:48 AM. **Madam Chair Lee** closed the meeting.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
2/6/2023  
11:23 AM

Relating to certification of recovery residences.

11:23 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the meeting to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** were present.

**Committee Discussion Topics:**

- Committee action

Roll call vote was held open for Senator Roers.

11:23 AM Senator K. Roers voted Yes on Amendment LC 23.0098.01001 and SB 2152 as Amended.

11:24 AM Madam Chair Lee closed the meeting.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

February 6, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2152

Page 1, line 2, replace "certification of" with "a"

Page 1, line 2, replace "residences" with "residence registry"

Page 1, line 6, replace "**Certification**" with "**Registry**"

Page 1, line 7, after the second underscored quotation mark insert "or "sober living residence""

Page 1, line 11, replace "certification program" with "registry"

Page 1, line 12, after "residences" insert "and sober living residences"

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 18

Renumber accordingly

AK  
2-6-23  
(1-1)

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2152: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2152 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 2, replace "certification of" with "a"

Page 1, line 2, replace "residences" with "residence registry"

Page 1, line 6, replace "**Certification**" with "**Registry**"

Page 1, line 7, after the second underscored quotation mark insert "or "sober living residence""

Page 1, line 11, replace "certification program" with "registry"

Page 1, line 12, after "residences" insert "and sober living residences"

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 18

Renumber accordingly



**2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2152**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
2/13/2023

A BILL for an Act relating to certification of recovery residences.
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8:44 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the meeting on SB 2152.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Members absent: Senator Sorvaag

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Recovery residences
- Sober living homes
- Committee discussion

8:45 AM Senator Dever introduced the bill, no written testimony

8:46 AM Committee discussion. SB 2152 does not belong in Appropriations committee, Senator Bekkedahl will have the removed from this committee.

8:48 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the meeting.

*Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk*

**2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2152**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
3/1/2023

Relating to a recovery residence registry.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, Jayme Davis, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Rep. Porter not present.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Voluntary registry
- Intentions of bill
- Residents in recovery
- Sober living
- Government involvement

Sen. Lee introduced SB 2152, speaking in support.

Judith Roberts, Founder of Hope Manner Sober Living Homes, supportive testimony (#21455).

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 3:29 PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2152  
3/20/2023

Relating to a recovery residence registry.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 11:41 AM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, Jayme Davis, and Gretchen Dobervich. Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby not present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

Chairman Weisz called for a discussion on SB 2152.

Rep. Anderson moved a do not pass on SB 2152.

Seconded by Rep. Davis.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	AB
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	N
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	N
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y

Motion carries 11-2-1.

Carried by Rep. Davis.

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 11:44 AM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2152, as reengrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Reengrossed SB 2152 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**SB 2152**

Testimony of Judith Roberts on Senate Bill 2152  
North Dakota Senate Human Services Committee  
Jan. 18, 2023

Madam Chair Lee, Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Judith Roberts. I am the founder of Hope Manor Sober Living Homes of Bismarck, which I opened nine years ago this week. For the year 2023, I am also the president of the National Sober Living Association, which is a national association that currently has 57 separate sober living organizations that are members. These organizations represent hundreds of sober living homes and thousands of residents.

I am here to testify in opposition to SB 2152. My opposition is not based upon any disagreement with the wonderful intentions behind the bill. I believe each one of us has one main intention and that is to keep our state, community and residents safe.

Firstly, I should mention that I am speaking on this bill as an individual, and not as a representative of Hope Manor Sober Living Homes or the National Sober Living Association. I am not registered as a lobbyist. I wanted to tell you about my background on this issue for your information, but I am not representing anyone. I am speaking for myself only.

In January of 2014, when Hope Manor opened, it was the only sober living home in the state of North Dakota. Since that time there have been multiple people and organizations who have started sober living homes in North Dakota. Some of these sober living homes are high quality, ethical and safe, but unfortunately, there may be some that are not. This is where the problem lies.

Running a safe, ethical and high-quality sober living home takes a great deal of work and dedication. In North Dakota, sober living homes have been a true grassroots movement. Most people like myself have opened a sober living home because they truly want to help save lives and create an opportunity for people seeking recovery to have that second chance they so desperately need. This is why many of the North Dakota sober living homes have already taken it upon themselves to voluntarily, without any mandate, to join a national organization to be certified. We, like you, believe it is vital for sober living homes and operators to have training, access to best practices, oversight, inspections, and a national standard of ethics. We gain all of that and more by being members of the National Sober Living Association.

Currently, sober living homes do not cost the state of North Dakota a dime of taxpayer's money. We stepped up to provide much-needed services in North Dakota and to fill a tremendous gap. Operators use their own personal resources and many, like Hope Manor, are 501(c)3 nonprofits. Generous individuals in our communities support the life-saving work we do. Operating a sober living home is definitely not a money-making enterprise and most sober living homes in North Dakota get by month-to-month on a shoestring budget. Most North Dakota operators don't get paid, and if they do, it is far below the poverty level. During my first



five years after opening Hope Manor, I did not take any income. When I stepped down as Director of Hope Manor on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I was being paid \$1,500 per month. I mention this to highlight the fact that most people in sober living do it as a calling to serve others. I also mention this to provide a clear picture of what additional fees and mandates will do to the North Dakota sober living landscape. It is not an exaggeration to say that the unintended consequences of this bill may very well cause the very best sober living homes in North Dakota to close their doors.

In addition to the possible mandates and fees added by this bill, my other major concern is that the bill writes into law what is, in my opinion, the least desirable option for membership in a national sober living organization. I am referring to lines 17 and 18 which list the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) as the option for certification. I have strong objections to the bill including only NARR as a certification option, for the following reasons. When I began Hope Manor in 2014, I researched which association Hope Manor should join, because I wanted oversight, inspection, training, networking and mentorship. The NARR fees were high (approximately \$500 per house) and they now also mandate that operators use a computer system that costs \$199 per house each month.

Unfortunately, in addition to paying these expenses, I received none of what I was looking for in an association. No one ever came to inspect my homes and there was no training. In fact, I never got to connect with a live person. After a year, I gave up on NARR, and in 2015 I joined a regional association which later was absorbed by the National Sober Living Association. The NSLA dues are extremely reasonable at \$150 per house. They mandate training, and they offer free live training and mentors in each state for NSLA members. Each year, the NSLA makes inspection trips to each home. These inspections even happened during the pandemic. The association also offers an affordable annual conference. The NSLA even goes further in offering help to individual residents within the member homes by investigating all resident complaints, and they require each home to provide NSLA contact information to their residents. The NSLA knows the needs and financial challenges of the sober living operators in North Dakota, and at the same time, it requires each member to maintain the highest quality of sober living.

As such, I would urge this committee, at the very least, to amend this bill to include the National Sober Living Association into the bill's language so that North Dakota sober living operators can have the choice of membership into an affordable, active, and accessible national association.

I thank you for your time and your service to North Dakota. I stand ready to answer any questions the committee may have regarding my testimony.

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill No. 2152**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**Senator Lee, Chairman**  
January 18, 2023

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Lachesha Graham, Manager of Addiction Treatment & Recovery Program & Policy with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you today with neutral testimony for Senate Bill No. 2152.

Recovery Residences, also known as recovery homes, sober living homes, or recovery houses, refer to a safe and healthy living environment free from alcohol and illicit drugs that supports individuals in recovery from addiction. Recovery housing benefits individuals by reinforcing a lifestyle free from alcohol and illicit substances and providing direct connections to peers in recovery and recovery services and supports.

Recovery Housing is an important aspect of the behavioral health continuum of care. Research indicates recovery housing provides individuals with a substance use disorder a greater chance of achieving long term recovery, reductions in returning to substance use, lower rates of incarceration, increase employment and improved family functioning.

According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, eleven states have voluntary certification of recovery residences, and two states require recovery residences to have a certification to operate.

In 2018, the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the current behavioral health system in North Dakota. The study identified recommendations to address housing alongside behavioral health needs and to promote timely linkage to community-based services following crisis, inpatient, and residential treatment. In consideration of the recommendations for housing, the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly provided \$200,000 in funding to the Department to develop and implement a new Recovery Housing Assistance Program (RHAP). Due to COVID-19, implementation was delayed, and \$150,000 of the funding was carried-over to the 2021-2023 biennium for a biennium total of \$350,000. The RHAP launched in May 2022. The program pays for up to 12 weeks of an eligible individual's living expenses at an approved Recovery Housing provider. An eligible individual must be a North Dakota resident, 18 or older, experiencing a substance use disorder, and be enrolled in a Department of Health & Human Services Public Assistance Program or have a household income at or below the 200% Federal Poverty Guideline. Since the Recovery Housing Assistance Program launch in May 2022 to December 2022, the program has entered into agreements with 10 Recovery Houses and provided recovery housing support to 177 individuals with a total of \$140,750 reimbursed.

The Department asks the committee to take into account several key factors when considering Senate Bill No. 2152, including the cost and resources to develop and implement such a program that recovery houses may not utilize. The Department is requesting half of an FTE to develop and manage the certification program for a cost of \$133,033 general fund.

Another consideration is that the national alliance for recovery residences does not certify recovery residences in the manner identified. Rather they approve non-government agencies as affiliates within the states such as recovery organizations, behavioral health coalitions, or larger recovery housing networks to certify the houses.

Lastly, there is no list of current recovery houses in North Dakota and no list that identifies where they are or what models are utilized. Developing a registry for recovery houses in the state similar to the Mental Health Registry would benefit individuals and referral sources who are trying to locate and access recovery housing support.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

The Recovery Housing Assistance Program (RHAP) provides financial support for individuals in recovery to access Recovery Housing.

# Recovery Housing Assistance Program



In 2018, the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the current behavioral health system in North Dakota. Relating specifically to housing, the study identified two recommendations:

- + Address housing needs alongside behavioral health needs
- + Promote timely linkage to community-based services following crisis, inpatient, and residential treatment

In consideration of the recommendations for housing outlined in the study, The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services' Behavioral Health Division received funding during the 66th Legislative Assembly to develop and implement a new Recovery Housing Assistance Program (RHAP). Due to COVID-19, implementation was delayed, and the funding was carried-over to the 2021-2022 biennium. The RHAP program launched in May 2022.

## RECOVERY HOUSING PROVIDES

- Substance-free home environment
- Space to focus on continued growth and healing
- 24-hour peer-led support and connection
- Resources to support individual life goals

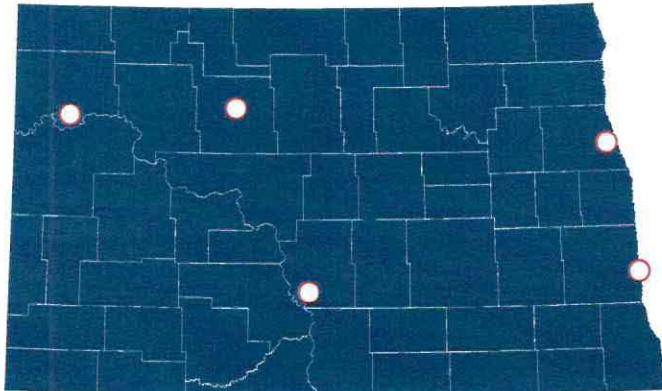
The program pays for up to 12 weeks of an eligible individual's living expenses at an approved Recovery Housing provider.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ND Resident and
- Age 18 or older and
- Experiencing a substance use disorder and
- Has not been a participant of the program within the last 365 days and
- One of the following:
  - Currently enrolled in a Department of Health & Human Services Public Assistance Program or
  - Currently enrolled in a Behavioral Health Division substance use disorder or community program or
  - Household income is at or below 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines

## CURRENT RHAP PROVIDERS

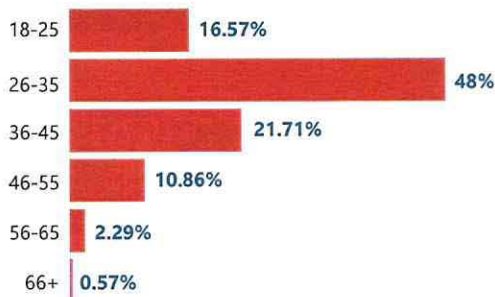
(as of January 5, 2023)



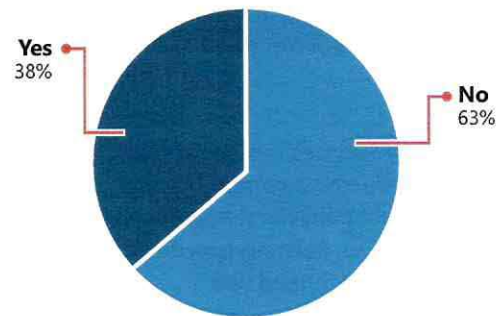
Minot – 1  
Bismarck/Mandan – 5  
Watford City – 1  
 Fargo – 2  
Grand Forks - 1

**177 individuals** have experienced the Recovery Housing Assistance Program benefits from May through December 2022

Participants by **Age Range**



Participants by **Tribal Affiliation**



**69%** of participants experienced an improvement in their **employment** status



**50%** of participants saw an improvement in the impact their **substance use** has on their lives



**49%** of participants saw an improvement in their **mental health**

## BUDGET

2021 – 2023 budget: \$350,000 general fund

Amount spent as of December 5, 2022 (program launched May 2022): \$140,750

For more information visit [hhs.nd.gov/recovery-housing](https://hhs.nd.gov/recovery-housing)

Dear Chairwoman and Senators:

My name is Kerry Israel and i am here today to provide testimony in regards to Senate Bill No. 2152.

As the Administrator/Operator of the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for women based out of Minot, ND there are parts of this BILL that are of great concern to me. Specifically the mention of a third-party, the national alliance for recovery residences. To express support of one particular third-party that does not provide services in North Dakota would be a great disservice to the North Dakota sober living community. Especially when such services are already being provided by the established organization-National Sober Living Association which has been a presence in this particular community for last 7+ years. The Sanctuary Sober Living for Women currently is a member of the National Sober Living Association, which I will from here on refer to as NSLA.

As a member of NSLA we are privi to the following benefits:

- Mentorship: one on one or as a group via phone, email or zoom with a live person
- networking opportunities with other sober living operators
- referrals: listed on the NSLA website as well as to potential residents
- mandatory free regional training/workshops, the opportunity to attend an annual NSLA conference
- homes that are awarded certification must meet NSLA quality standards, yearly inspections, a Code of Ethics that must be signed by all member operators and staff in regards to their conduct toward eachother and residents
- member homes stand out from non-member homes not governed by any set standard of quality. Member sober living homes get referrals from legal jurisdictions and other service providers that recognize the structure, stability, safety of an NSLA certified home.
- access to affordable Sober Living Insurance, as well as reduced prices on drug testing supplies
- exposure through advertising and promotion on the up to date NSLA Facebook page and website, ads placed in recovery publications and recovery event programs
- advocacy through monitoring political and legal issues that affect sober living homes and provides an informed advocate on sober living and recovery issues.



**APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE TO OPERATE  
AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION  
SFN 452 (Rev. 9-2022)

Department Use Only
License Number
Licensure Period

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Type or print clearly. Enclose a check or money order for \$75 and other information as requested and submit to: Department of Health and Human Services, 600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250 Telephone 701-328-2321. Keep a copy for your records.

**ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY INFORMATION**

Name of Assisted Living Facility (ALF)			
ALF Street Address	City	State	ZIP Code
ALF Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Contact Person	Title	Telephone Number	
Email Address	Contact Person's Mailing Address (if different than facility address)		
Type of Application <input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Number of Living Units	Does your ALF specialize in dementia/alzheimer's? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Has ownership of this ALF changed in the last twelve months? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Has the legal entity responsible for the operation of this ALF changed in the last twelve months? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is the ALF under a management agreement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**LEGAL OPERATOR OF THE ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY**

Exact Name of Legal Entity Responsible for Operations	Taxpayer Identification Number		
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

**LEGAL OWNER OF THE ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY**

Exact Name of Owner of Premises			
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

<b>Services Available to Tenants at the Facility (either provided directly or coordinated through other entities)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bathing	<input type="checkbox"/> Eating	<input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dressing	<input type="checkbox"/> Medication Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Toileting	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Hygiene	<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Transferring	<input type="checkbox"/> Meal Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<b>How are services provided to the tenants at the facility?</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Directly by Operating Entity	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinated Through Other Entity (s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	



**SIGNATURES AND AFFIDAVIT**

**Note:** The person signing the application must be 18 years of age or older. The application must be signed by the official(s) of the entity responsible for the operation of the assisted living facility. (If a sole proprietorship, the owner shall sign the application; if a corporation, two of its officers shall sign; if a state, county, or municipal unit, the application is to be signed by the head of the department having jurisdiction over the assisted living facility).

The undersigned hereby makes application for a license to operate an assisted living facility subject to the provisions of North Dakota Century Code - Chapter 50-32 and 23-09, and North Dakota Administrative Code - Chapter 75-03-34 as well as any other applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. The undersigned declares that they have examined this application and all attachments and that to the best of their knowledge and belief, this information is true, correct and complete. The undersigned will notify the Department of Human Services in writing of any changes in this information within thirty (30) days of any such change.

The undersigned certifies that operation of its facility is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and, upon request, make available to the department copies of current certifications, licenses, permits and other similar documents evidencing compliance with such laws.

**SIGNATURE**

Name (Print)		Name (Print)	
Name	Date	Name	Date
Title		Title	

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**Note:** The application fee will not be refunded if the application is denied because the required information is not submitted or the application is incomplete. The department shall approve or deny an application for a license within thirty days of the departments receipt of complete application materials. The following items must be provided before the application will be processed.

- Signed application
- Check or money order for the \$75 annual license fee (Made payable to the Department of Health and Human Services)
- Copy of written agreement with tenant. **Agreement must include separate rates for rent and separate rates for services provided to the tenant as well as payment terms, refund policies, rate changes, tenancy criteria, and living unit inspections.**
- Copy of written notice provided to tenants that explains how a tenant may report a complaint regarding the assisted living facility. **The notice must include the telephone number of the department's senior info-line and the address of the Aging Services Division of the department.** The telephone numbers for the senior info-line are 1-855-462-5465 and 1-701-328-4601. The address of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman is: State Long Term Care Ombudsman, 1237 W Divide Ave Ste 6, Bismarck, ND 58501. Phone: 701-328-4617. Fax: 701-328-0389. Email: dhsagingombud@nd.gov.
- Copy of the Brochure used to Promote or Advertise the Facility (If Available)
- Copy of Resident Handbook (If Available)
- Enter Provider Number if enrolled as a Qualified Service Provider (QSP)
- Return application to the following address: Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Services Division, 600 E Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

QSP Provider Number
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City	Assisted Living Facility	Street Address	Zip	Contact Person	Telephone	Number of Living Units	Services Available											
							Bathing	Dressing	Toileting	Transferring	Eating	Medication Management	Personal Hygiene	Meal Preparation	Housekeeping	Transportation	Laundry	Other
Mandan	Edgewood Mandan, LLC	2801 39th Ave SE	58554	Gwen Beckler	701-663-6664	88	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mandan	Lakewood Landing, Inc.	4401 21st St SE	58554	Amy Arel	701-936-9680	30	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mayville	Luther Memorial Home	30,34,36 8th Ave SE	58257	Brett Ulrich	701-786-3401	41	X											
McVillie	The Summerfield - NCHS Assisted Living Apartments	514 N Oisgard Street	58254	Steve Forde	701-322-2227	12	X				X		X		X			
Minot	Edgewood Minot Senior Living, LLC	800 16th Avenue SE	58701	Carma McLaughlin	701-852-1399	97	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Minot	Elison Assited Living of Minot	3515 10th Street SW	58701	Bryan McCaleb	817-586-2176	85	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Minot	ProHealth Home Care Assisted Living	700-702 33rd Avenue SW	58701	Judy Hoff	701-721-1126	10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Hospice	
Minot	Somerset Court	1900 28th Street SW	58701	Melissa VanDeventer	701-838-4500	137	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	PT/OT	
Minot	The View	2905 Elk Drive	58701	Amanda Anfinsen	701-852-7700	61	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Minot	The Wellington	601 24th Avenue SW	58701	Dawn Anderson	701-858-9800	67	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Minot	UnSong's Assisted Living, LLC	1608 16th Street NW	58703	UnSong Ringuette	701-839-5646	5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Shopping, Mail, Financing	
Napoleon	Napoleon Congregate / AL Apartments	320 East 5th Street	58561	Richard Regner	701-794-2381	10	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
New Rockford	Heritage House	215 13th Street N	58356	Katlyn Smith	701-947-2944	16	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
New Salem	Elm Crest Assisted Living	309 N 2nd Street	58563	Janessa Vogel	701-843-7526	19	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	Therapy, Nursing Services, Meals	
Northwood	Northwood Deaconess Health Center	4 N Park Street	58267	Pete Antonson	701-587-6060	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Oakes	Good Samaritan Society - Royal Oakes	301 North 12th Street	58474	Patricia Bergh	701-742-3274	14	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		
Rolla	Park View Manor	618 8th Avenue NE	58367	Kimberly Samuelson	701-477-8888	29	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Rugby	Haaland Estates Assisted Living	406 10th Street SE	58368	Kelly Clements	701-776-5203	37	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		
Stanley	Rosen Place on 8th	607 8th Ave SE	58784	Lauren Hysjulien	701-628-8653	14	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Valley City	Bridgeview Estates, Inc.	1120 5th Street NE	58072	Patricia Hansen	701-845-4300	45	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	Beauty Shop, Activities, Exercise, Footcare	
Valley City	The Legacy Place, LLC	570 13th Street NE	58072	Nikki Grebel	701-845-8945	43	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Velva	Vallea View Manor	302 Main Street S	58790	Emily Tescher Schmaltz	701-338-2727	16	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	Social/Spiritual Activities	
Wahpeton	Siena Court	711 14th Ave N	58075	James Cornelius	701-642-8667	16	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Therapy	
Watford City	Horizon Assisted Living Center	705 4th Avenue NE	58854	Arron Turmquist	701-444-8681	15	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		
West Fargo	Kind-er Care Home	2235 Shloh St	58078	Melanie Klinkhammer	701-261-3246	10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
West Fargo	Kind-er Care Home II	120 23rd Ave SE	58078	Melanie Klinkhammer	701-261-3246	12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
West Fargo	New Perspective - West Fargo	645 33rd Ave E	58078	Danika Menard	952-212-5927	119	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
West Fargo	Shyenne Crossings	225 13th Avenue West	58078	Brady Johnsrud	701-478-6000	103	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Williston	Arbor House	1705 3rd Avenue West	58801	Tammra Peterson	701-572-6766	33	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Foot Care, Simple wound care, PT/OT if appropriate	
Wishek	Prairie Hills Assisted Living	400 4th Street S	58495	Michael Hall	701-452-2333	19	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	Physical Therapy, Church, Activities, Exercise Classes	
<b>75 Facilities</b>						<b>Total Living Units</b>	<b>3149</b>											

Testimony of Judith Roberts on Senate Bill 2152  
North Dakota House Human Services Committee  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Chairman Weisz, Members of the North Dakota House Human Services Committee,

My name is Judith Roberts. I am the founder of Hope Manor Sober Living Homes of Bismarck, which I began nine years ago. In January, I stepped down as Director of Hope Manor and hired Megan Frankl as Director. She is also here today and is available to address any questions you may have. For the year 2023, I am also the president of the [National Sober Living Association](#), which is a national association that currently has 57 separate sober living organizations that are members. These organizations represent hundreds of sober living homes and thousands of residents.

I am here to testify about [SB 2152](#). I am not exactly neutral about this bill, but I am torn about whether to be opposed to it or in support of it. My opinions are not based upon any disagreement with the wonderful intentions behind the bill. I believe each one of us is striving to keep our state, community and residents safe.

First, I should mention that I am speaking on this bill as an individual, and not as a representative of Hope Manor Sober Living Homes, the NSLA or any other organization. I am not registered as a lobbyist. I wanted to tell you about my background on this issue for your information, but I am speaking for myself only.

When this bill [was introduced in the Senate](#), I was [opposed to it](#). It established a voluntary certification program for recovery residences in the state, and mentioned only one organization as a provider of third-party certification. That organization is not a viable option for many of the North Dakota sober living homes, and since other, better options and organizations were not mentioned, I opposed SB 2152. The bill [was amended](#) and the name of the organization was removed.

So, why am I back here today? Several reasons. If a third-party organization is included in this legislation, it is vital to provide more than one choice to the citizens of North Dakota. I previously offered testimony as to why the National Sober Living Association fits the needs of North Dakota sober living home providers far better, because the NSLA requires and provides training, access to best practices, oversight, yearly inspections, and a national standard of ethics. I was opposed to the bill because I did not want to be forced to leave an organization that offers those services for another organization that I considered inferior.

However, I am still torn about this bill in its present form, and I wanted to express my concerns of some unintended consequences that may result. SB2152 now establishes a “voluntary registry for recovery residences and sober living residences in the state.” If you operate one of these residences, you may choose whether to join or not.

The concern I have is that if a sober living home is listed on a state registry, that is likely to be construed as a state endorsement. People will look at the list and choose a sober living home for themselves or their loved ones without doing any further checking, thinking it is safe, ethical, and drug/alcohol free. They will probably think, hey, if it's listed on a state registry, it must be good. They are not likely to know that the state has not checked or investigated the listings for their quality or lack thereof. How I interpret the bill in its current form is that there are no provisions for certification, inspection, training, or indeed any oversight at all.

In January of 2014, when Hope Manor opened, it was the only sober living home in the state of North Dakota. I am proud to say that it is a top-quality facility. Our homes are safe, clean, extremely structured and 100% drug and alcohol free, but people don't have to take our word on that because we are inspected yearly by a national organization to ensure we continue to operate at the highest levels for the good of our residents and the community.

However, unfortunately, North Dakota now has sober living facilities that do not come close to our quality standards. And this proposed state registry would not be designed to tell one from the other. I don't think having the state registry that the bill envisions would be an improvement over the status quo. It wouldn't even tell the Department of Health and Human Services how many sober living facilities are out there, because participation in the registry is voluntary.

On the other hand, I can see the merits in the argument for light-touch regulation of North Dakota sober living homes. I can foresee circumstances where there is a tragedy at a sober living home – say, for example, if someone dies of a drug overdose, or someone is arrested for dealing drugs out of a sober living home. That would be followed by a public outcry and questions about the lack of regulation, which could result in laws and rules that would be unnecessarily harsh and hurt the ability of quality operators to provide services. To borrow a phrase, the rain would fall on the just and the unjust. This is all speculation on my part, but I think it is reasonable.

So, what is to be done? Running a safe, ethical and high-quality sober living home takes a great deal of work and dedication. In North Dakota, sober living homes have been a true grassroots movement. Most people like myself have opened a sober living home because they themselves are in recovery, they truly want to help save lives and create an opportunity for people seeking recovery to have that second chance they so desperately need. This is why many of the North Dakota sober living homes have already taken it upon themselves to voluntarily, without any mandate, join a national organization to be certified.

Operating a sober living home is definitely not a money-making enterprise and most sober living homes in North Dakota get by month-to-month on a shoestring budget. Most North Dakota operators don't get paid, and if they do, it is far below the poverty level. During my first five years after opening Hope Manor, I did not take any income. When I stepped down as Director of Hope Manor on January 1st of this year, I was being paid \$1,500 per month. I

mention all of this to highlight the fact that most people in sober living do it as a calling to serve others. I also mention this to provide a clear picture of what a heavy regulatory approach with additional fees and mandates could do to the North Dakota sober living landscape.

To sum up, I think you have these choices.

- You could kill this bill. I do believe it is pointless in its present form.
- You could pass this bill as is. Compliance would be easy, but as I mentioned, I think this bill would create its own problems.
- You could amend the bill to require some kind of quality certification of sober living homes, while leaving operators flexibility in meeting those requirements. If you choose that path, please do not favor any one third-party certification organization.

This last approach may require some taxpayer expense for oversight. The original bill had a [\\$133,000 fiscal note](#).

I thank you for your time and your service to North Dakota. I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

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