

Warm greetings to you!

My name is Jason Grueneich, and I'm proud to be a person living with HIV (PLWH), as well as a lifelong North Dakotan, community organizer, and passionate advocate. In 2024, I founded *Shine Bright & Live*, North Dakota's first HIV-focused nonprofit, with a mission to connect, uplift, and empower individuals living with and impacted by HIV—especially in our rural communities.

Throughout my journey, I've had the privilege of meeting inspiring people across the country and learning how we can better support one another in accessing care, breaking stigma, and building community. I believe everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and valued—no matter where they are on their health and wellness journey.

Today, I serve as the Facilitator for the **North Dakota HIV Advisory Board (NDHAB)**, and I want to personally invite you to consider joining us. We are a diverse group of advocates, leaders, and everyday people who share a vision for a more informed, compassionate, and inclusive North Dakota—where people living with HIV can truly thrive.

Over the past year, NDHAB has proudly contributed to meaningful projects that have made a real difference, including:

- Advocating for stigma-reduction efforts in the state's HIV Prevention and Care Plan
- Helping design a peer-to-peer support program for those newly diagnosed
- Lifting up voices and stories that reflect our communities

Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, our board will continue this momentum through exciting initiatives such as:

- Creating multilingual HIV prevention and care resources to reach all North Dakotans
- Exploring virtual tools to provide holistic health and wellness support
- Hosting events that connect with rural and priority communities
- Providing HIV education to city and local leaders to build more inclusive policies

We believe that real progress happens when all voices are at the table—especially those of people living with HIV, allies, caregivers, and community members who care deeply about public health and equity. If that sounds like you, we'd love to welcome you to our team.

To learn more or apply, visit <u>www.ShineBrightandLive.org</u> or email me directly at **Director@ShineBrightLive.org**.

With hope and gratitude,

Jason Grueneich

Facilitator, North Dakota HIV Advisory Board
Founder, Shine Bright & Live