



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sen. Cleary and Rep. Nelson  
Honored with Legislative Champion Award**

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations (NDANO) is proud to announce that state Senator Sean Cleary of Bismarck and Representative Jon O. Nelson of Rugby are this year's recipients of the Legislative Champion Award in recognition of their unwavering commitment and impactful contributions to the nonprofit sector in North Dakota.

NDANO will present the 2026 North Dakota Nonprofit Awards during a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. CT on June 4 in the 4-H Hall in the State Fair Center in Minot. The luncheon is the closing event for the North Dakota Nonprofit Leadership Conference. Tickets for the awards luncheon and the conference are available at [www.ndano.org](http://www.ndano.org).

The Legislative Champion Award is given annually to a state legislator(s) who has demonstrated significant support for strengthening the nonprofit sector either through policy advancements or public advocacy. Sen. Cleary and Rep. Nelson's efforts and steadfast advocacy have helped to strengthen the social safety net, expand access to essential services and improve the overall quality of life for individuals and families across the state.

"These legislators have made a meaningful and lasting impact on the nonprofit sector, and NDANO is proud to recognize both a senator and a representative with this year's awards," NDANO Executive Director Shawn McKenna says. "Their leadership and commitment at the legislative level help ensure a strong, sustainable nonprofit sector that continues to support communities across North Dakota, and we're honored to celebrate their contributions."

All 2026 award recipients will be recognized at the North Dakota Nonprofit Leadership Conference, which brings together leaders from across the state to participate in educational sessions, network, and exchange ideas. To register, visit [www.ndano.org](http://www.ndano.org).

NDANO is a statewide membership organization representing nonprofit groups throughout North Dakota. Its mission is to educate, advocate and connect to strengthen nonprofits.

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