

House Bill 1509

January 30, 2023 – 68<sup>th</sup> ND Legislative Session

Chair Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee my name is Erica Hofland and I am a practicing Obstetrician and Gynecologist from Dickinson North Dakota. I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 1509.

The Legislature has been hearing testimony this session in regards to appropriations for various pregnancy counseling services. It is imperative that if counseling centers are financially supported by the state that they provide evidence based medical information. House Bill 1509 is important to ensure that funding being provided by the tax payers is being used appropriately. The minimum standards of this bill are essential for patient safety. While many of these centers are established to dissuade individuals and families from seeking termination of pregnancy care they also tout their ability to provide additional medical services. I can attest to having encountered various misdiagnoses and medical misinformation from a local center. This has ranged from incorrect and lacking counseling on contraceptive services, diagnosis without treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and also misdiagnosis of ectopic pregnancies. All of these scenarios and various others could be avoided by ensuring that medical care is meeting the standard of care. This requires certain education, training, and oversight of these centers. House Bill 1509 would help achieve this.

Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any additional help. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely submitted,

Erica Hofland, MD, FACOG

Dickinson, North Dakota