

Public Testimony for SB 2230: Relating to establishing an adoption assistance program for costs associated with the home study process.

Submitted by Shannon Beckermann on March 6, 2023

I would like to start off by saying thank you for your consideration for this bill. If a bill like this were to be passed, it would be of substantial help in easing the financial burden to hopeful adoptive families who are pursuing adoption to grow their families.

My husband and I have unexplained infertility and decided soon after finding this out in 2017 that we would try to grow our family through adoption. Before finding out about our infertility, I hadn't ever considered adoption as I knew that the cost of it was so high. I didn't understand why it should cost families who cannot have biological children so much. When we started to look into different adoption agencies, we were surprised by the fees that we were facing. We decided to move forward anyways and to apply for grants to aid in helping us to pay for the fees. Since then, we have been blessed to have added two children to our family through adoption.

We are currently thinking about entering into the adoption process for a third adoption. If this bill were to be passed, it would not be a benefit to our family, but to many other families in North Dakota who are going through the adoption process. Thank you again for your consideration of this bill. I asked that you would consider voting in favor of this bill and providing much needed assistance to many hopeful adoptive families.

Thank you!

Best Regards,
Shannon Beckermann