

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2080
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 4, 2023

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Cory Pedersen, Director of the Children and Family Services Section with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to support Senate Bill 2080, which was introduced on behalf of the Department.

Section 1. The change in this section relates to the investigation completed by a licensed child-placing agency identified in chapter 14-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, Revised Uniform Adoption Act. The Department proposes to add language to subsection 2 of section 14-15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code in effort to support the use and consideration of the Department-approved foster care assessment when considering a family for adoption.

North Dakota has various licensed child-placing agencies throughout the state. This addition to the law would require the agencies to engage with the Department when an individual is a licensed foster care provider or seeking to become a licensed foster care provider, at the same time as their adoption investigation.

This updated language will streamline communication, offer efficiencies to the family, while ensuring the Department is aware of the family's involvement with adoption programming, while also holding a license as a foster care provider.

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