

House Judiciary Committee
Testimony Presented Katelyn Rivinius, Social Work Student
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Sir Chairman Larwence and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Katelyn Rivinius. I am a social work student and a citizen of Bismarck. I am testifying in favor of senate bill 2352.

Senate bill 2352 will give the Heart River Correctional Center the chance to start a program that will give inmates the opportunity to care for their children if the child is eighteen months of age or younger. This bill does count for the safety of the child, the treatment needs of the inmate and length of time that the child may reside with the facility.

In any child development class, students are taught the bond that a mother and child experience during the first few years of a child's life, is a critical part of development not only for the child but for the mother as well. This bill would give the Correctional Center the chance to try and motivate mothers with young children to get out of the correctional center with new life skills and parenting skills that could prevent them from re-entry after they are released.

These women will be in our community as our neighbors when they are released which is why this presents an opportunity for growth and learning that will make these women more successful members of society.

This bill presents an opportunity for reunify women in our correctional center with their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I am happy to answer any questions.