

**House Bill 1561**  
**Lt. Governor Michelle Strinden**  
**Senate Industry & Business Committee**  
**Sen. Jeff Barta, chair**  
**March 18, 2025**  
**Fort Union Room**

Good afternoon, Chair Barta and members of the Senate Industry & Business Committee. For the record, my name is Michelle Strinden, Lieutenant Governor for the State of North Dakota. I am here to provide our administration's support for House Bill 1561.

Ensuring the safety of our children from harmful sexual content is critically important to protect their innocence and long-term well-being. House Bill 1561 is about protecting our children and young adults under the age of 18 from exposure to harmful sexual content. This legislation addresses the liability of commercial entities in North Dakota for publishing or distributing sexual material harmful to minors. It also establishes age verification requirements for access to such materials, defines key terms, and outlines penalties for non-compliance.

House Bill 1561 ensures that commercial entities verify the age of individuals accessing explicit sexual material to be at least 18 years old, thereby protecting minors from inappropriate content. We support the efforts of Representative Swiontek in bringing this bill forward and we support a do pass recommendation on House Bill 1561.