



Empowering families to thrive by providing community-driven resources that foster safe and nurturing environments for children.

House Bill 1410

Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony Presented by Christy Dodd, MPH

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Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Christy Dodd, and I am the Executive Director of Families Flourish ND (formerly known as Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota) and a member of the ND Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force. I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on the importance of a study of laws relating to criminal conduct against children, child sexual assault and child physical abuse and neglect, looking laws relating to AI for crimes relating to child sexual abuse and creating a Study Committee. I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB 1410. As the Director of Families Flourish ND our work is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse across the state and as a former Director of a Child Advocacy Center in another state I also understand the importance of intervention when reports of abuse have been made.

I provide written testimony here today because our children in North Dakota deserve more than outdated terms such as sexual performance materials which imply that this is a willing performance by children just in the nature of



Empowering families to thrive by providing community-driven resources that foster safe and nurturing environments for children. the words. I am asking that sexual performance be changed to child sexually abuse material or CSAM and becomes reflective across state laws.

I am also supportive of the bills mandate that a Study Committee look at other laws that protect children and support investigations and prosecution of crimes involving physical and/or sexual abuse and neglect. This study group is the next step in focusing on children and young people here in the state. Our greatest resource here in ND is our children because all children deserve to grow up in happy healthy homes with a safe childhood. Thank you for considering my request to support HB 1410

Senator Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to share why I support this bill. For the reasons mentioned, I respectfully request a do pass of HB 1410.

Christy Dodd

Executive Director

Families Flourish ND