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Dear House Human Services Committee,

I am testifying today in support of HB 1511, a bill designed to eliminate any confusion regarding the legislation passed last session—SB 2150—by ensuring that obstetricians in North Dakota have a clear understanding of our state laws.

HB 1511 would require obstetricians to complete a one-hour educational course each time they renew their medical license. This course would be free of charge and count toward the 40 total CME credits they are already required to complete every two years. Importantly, this bill is designed to be adaptive, automatically updating to reflect any legal changes. If the ongoing lawsuit alters or overturns our statute, the requirements will adjust accordingly. And if the law is entirely struck down, physicians would not be required to complete education on laws that no longer exist.

Opponents of this bill argue that the law is too vague to be taught. However, a law is either vague or it isn't, there is no gray area. Physicians must either practice under it or not. I have spoken to obstetricians across North Dakota who successfully practice within the law. Additionally, Dr. Jerry, who has practiced in our state for over 30 years, has adhered to the principles outlined in SB 2150 long before it was formally enacted. This demonstrates that the law itself is not unclear; rather, there is a lack of understanding among some providers—which is precisely why this bill is necessary.

Clearly, abortion is not necessary for high-quality healthcare for women and children. After 50 years under *Roe v. Wade*, it is understandable that some physicians may be uncertain about how to navigate our state's laws. This educational initiative will provide clarity, ensuring that North Dakota's obstetricians are well-informed and equipped to deliver excellent care.

I urge the committee to support HB 1511 to promote clear, consistent medical practice across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.