

Senator Ron Sorvaag,

My name is Doctor Larry Burd. I am a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. In the budget for the upcoming biennium the NDDOH did not include existing funding of \$350,458 to prevent prenatal alcohol exposure which increases risk for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

8.4% (1 out of 12) pregnant women in North Dakota drink throughout pregnancy. In the United States, the prevalence of FASD ranges from 1 to 5% of live births. In North Dakota, we have about 107 new cases of FASD each year. The mortality rate is over 5%. The recurrence risk within that family is increased by 77%. The annual cost of care for a child with FASD is increased by \$22,800; for adults over \$24,300. Importantly, the cost to prevent a case using our methodology is \$20,200.

FASD is a lifetime condition increasing risk for learning impairments, mental health disorders, severe health problems, and increased risk for contact with juvenile and adult corrections systems. This funding is our only funding for prevention of FASD. This funding also helps support North Dakota Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center diagnostic clinic. The Center provides diagnostic and management services for people from North Dakota needing assessment for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. This is the only diagnostic clinic in North Dakota.

This program has achieved international and national recognition for the innovations, effectiveness and clinical excellence. This is evidenced by our invitations and participation in the following:

Consultant, National Zero to Three Model Court Teams on identification and management of young children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder children in foster care.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism work group on harmonization of diagnostic criteria for FASD

National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) Justice Taskforce.

Ireland ENDpae which is an advocacy working group on FASD in Ireland.

Principal Investigator of the Republic of Congo Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders program

Member of the Advisory Committee for the Salford Parents and Careers Education Course for Improvements in FASD Outcomes in Children (SPECIFICS).

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) “Potential Strategies and Opportunities for Monitoring the Proportion of Children Affected by a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder”.

This program has provided services for families from every part of North Dakota. In my forty years with the University Medical school I have evaluated and treated over 16,000 children and adults with developmental disorders and severe mental health disorders from every part of

North Dakota. We have provided hundreds of training opportunities on FASD for physicians, nurses, teachers, substance use disorder treatment programs and with corrections and court personnel.

I would like to request that you restore this funding so we can continue to provide this essential service for the citizens of North Dakota.