

Good afternoon Chairman Lee and the esteemed members of the Senate Human Services Committee. For the record, I am Representative Bill Devlin of District 23 which is made up of four & one-half counties in Eastern North Dakota. I live in Finley.

HB 1076 is a housekeeping bill in every sense of the word.

Veteran members of this committee will remember that we made a change last session which provided that the Chairman of the Children's Cabinet would not be from the Executive Branch as proposed but instead would be chaired by a legislator.

Specifically, the bill last session named the Chairman of Legislative Management as Chairman of the Children's Cabinet. As the Children's Cabinet worked through issues during the interim, we came to realize that we should have provided more flexibility to the chairman's position.

We believe there will be times in the future when the Chairman of Legislative Management might prefer if others in the legislature could be chairman. There are certainly people on this committee and others in both chambers who may provide some additional expertise to chair the cabinet in the future. We want to allow this flexibility and that is what this bill does.

The membership of the committee, which is listed on the first page of the bill remains unchanged. The duties of the committee, which appears on page two of the bill also is unchanged.

The only other change is minor as the bill removes the sunset clause of July 31,2025 as we believe the Children's Cabinet will provide many positive things for years to come. The bill has the emergency clause as we wanted to give the Chairman of Legislative Management a full range of options, even during this session, if needed.

That is the bill, Chairman Lee and Committee members. I would certainly stand for any questions but believe this bill deserves quick passage by the committee and I urge a do pass recommendation.

Thank you, Chairman Lee and members of the committee, for your attention this afternoon.