

Chairperson Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Kristin Rubbelke, and I am Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, North Dakota Chapter (NASW-ND). On behalf of NASW-ND, we ask that you support HB 1105 so that women can feed their children in public without fear of retribution.

Breastfeeding and giving nourishment to a child is something that we should encourage mothers to do. This bill takes out broad language that could confuse and dissuade mothers from going out in public with their babies or feeding their babies when their children need it.

Women have been disadvantaged due to rules and laws, like in the underlying language, that puts broad restrictions and unnecessary, cumbersome burdens on mothers. Women should not feel restricted by motherhood. They should feel welcomed and supported. That is what this language does.

Referencing the NASW Code of Ethics, "Social workers seek to enhance clients' capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own needs." This includes individuals' need to breastfeed and provide nourishment for their children without worry of discrimination and judgment publicly or privately.

On behalf of NASW-ND, I thank you for your consideration and ask that you support HB 1105.

Sincerely,



Kristin Rubbelke
Executive Director
NASW-ND