

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2323**

**Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota  
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Good morning Chairman Burckhard and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2323 and respectfully request that you recommend a “DO PASS” on this bill.

I want to be clear at the outset – our organization is not testifying today on zoning regulations. We are not sufficiently knowledgeable on that subject to speak to it in a meaningful manner. We *are* testifying on the impact abortion facilities could have on children and adolescents.

If located near a school, students could be subjected to disturbing images, a volatile environment, and potential violence when passing by an abortion facility. There have been multiple cases of shootings, violent altercations, and property damage that have occurred outside abortion facilities over the years. Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota unequivocally condemns such actions; however, the likelihood is that they will unfortunately be with us for the foreseeable future, as long as the abortion issue continues to deeply divide our nation.

It is well documented that a link exists between exposure to violence as a child and potential violence committed by these children themselves as they grow up. If we can help break that cycle, reducing exposure to violent situations would seem to be a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, we support legislation that would ensure the safety and reduce the potential emotional trauma these types of incidents could have on school-aged children. Locating abortion facilities away from schools could help reduce the likelihood of this happening.

Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota supports Senate Bill 2323 for these reasons and respectfully asks for you to pass this bill out of committee with a “DO PASS” recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I will stand for any questions you may have.