

January 17, 2023
Bill 1144

Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee:

Hello, my name is Gianna Andress, and I am in support of Bill 1144.

According to the North Dakota Census Bureau, out of all reported cases of child abuse and neglect, a staggering 30% are confirmed each year, the largest concentration concerning children under 1 year of age.

As a new childcare provider within the year of 2022, I felt undereducated and did not know that I was able to report signs of child abuse and neglect. At the daycare where I was employed as a teacher's assistant, a young boy under 2 years of age showed clear signs of developmental delay, emotional abuse, and physical neglect in appearance and health. Although I received training during orientation on how to recognize abuse and neglect in children, I was not told how to report it. Because the management personnel of this childcare facility did not report the situation, I thought I could not do so. If I had received a more thorough education on this topic and been required to become a mandated reporter, I would have not only been capable of but required to help this struggling child, who could now be in a better position during a crucial part of his development.

I petition you, out of concern for abused and neglected children and their caregivers to pass this bill in favor of mandated reporting training for childcare providers in North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal. I stand open for questioning.