



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Testimony in Support of House Bill 1403

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
January 30, 2023

Dear Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1403 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

Given that we just discussed HB 1362, this bill has a similar intent – to codify that parents are the fundamental authority in all aspects of their children’s lives. Thus, our comments are focused on areas where these two bills are the same or differ. Both bills specifically mention education, but HB 1403 notes other areas as well, including health care and mental health. However, both contain broad language that can be interpreted in a similar fundamental sense to cover all these areas.

The other way this bill differs is that it provides reimbursement of costs if a parent brings a suit against a governmental entity that their parental rights have been violated and the court decides in their favor. We believe that the addition of this section could offer some greater compliance of government entities with this bill.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action believes HB 1403 seeks to accomplish the same fundamental purpose as HB 1362 – protection of parental rights. For that reason, we respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on House Bill 1403.

Thank you for your time and I’d now be happy to stand for any questions.