

**House Bill No. 1536
Human Service Committee**

**Testimony Presented by
Cathy Ferderer, Juvenile Court Coordinator
January 23, 2023**

For the record, my name is Cathy Ferderer, and I am the Juvenile Court Coordinator for the State Court Administrator's Office. I am appearing today on House Bill 1536 to offer testimony in support.

HB 1536 amends Chapter 27-20.3 of the North Dakota Century Code to include Federal Indian Children Welfare Act language. The Court supports the bill in concept but has concerns that some of the language is inconsistent with the current juvenile court and adoption statutes. We have not had an opportunity to thoroughly review the bill so we are not prepared to offer amendments today. Alternatively, we are happy to collaborate with other stakeholders to iron out terminology or process issues that may have inadvertently included or been created when language is copied from another jurisdiction.

I will stand for any questions.