



TESTIMONY on SB 2150
from the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS—NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
to the
ND House Human Services Committee
March 14, 2023

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee:

The Advocacy Committee of the NASW-ND submits this testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 2150. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective.

NASW-ND strongly opposes SB 2150 for the following reasons:

1. Abortion bans take away people's power over their lives and their futures and put pregnant people in danger by not providing comprehensive reproductive health care. SB 2150 is in direct opposition to our mission of advancing sound and equitable social policy.
 - a. While this bill allows for termination care in the case of rape or incest, the bill effectively makes it impossible to access said care by placing a six-week limit on those terminations.
 - b. The majority of pregnancies are not diagnosed until after 6 weeks gestation and therefore this exception will not allow for termination for most individuals who have just undergone a traumatic experience.
2. SB 2150 goes against our ethical code of conduct as social workers.
 - a. 1.02 Self-Determination: Social workers respect and promote the right of clients to self-determination and assist clients in their efforts to identify and clarify their goals.
 - b. The decision about whether, when, or how to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. This legislation would affect important, personal private decisions that should be made by individuals in consultation with their doctors and their families.
3. Anyone seeking health care services should receive comprehensive, unbiased, medically and factually accurate information, including pregnant people.
 - a. A medical provider or counselor should never try to shame someone or pressure them into making a different decision based on their own personal beliefs.
 - b. Trained, licensed, and experienced medical professionals, not legislators, are best able to work with patients to decide what option is best for them.

The NASW-ND respectfully requests that members of the House Human Services Committee vote Do Not Pass on SB 2150.

Testimony submitted by:

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NASW-ND Lobbyist

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND) is a membership association representing social workers in the state of North Dakota. The mission of NASW-ND is to strengthen and protect the practice of social work in North Dakota and to advance sound and equitable social policy. Our position on this bill is solidly grounded in our organization's mission.