

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

March 14, 2023

House Human Services Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 2185

Chairman Robin Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Linda Thorson, State Director for Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. Today, I am testifying for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee in support of SB 2185.

As the largest public policy women's organization in the nation and our state, CWA of North Dakota strongly supports SB 2185. SB 2185 is a commonsense bill that would provide mothers with information and links to social services, financial assistance, adoption services, pregnancy and parenting information, planning guidance, care centers, agencies, and other available public and private resources for expectant families and new parents.

Whether it's private adoption agencies, county services, or crisis pregnancy centers, expectant women need an easy way to know what resources are available. No mother should ever have to feel alone. A woman with an unexpected pregnancy may be in fear of whether she can get support during pregnancy and after the child is born. The development and promotion of a Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Website will ensure that all public (state and local) and private resources are available on an easy-to-navigate website.

Are you aware of the location of the eight Pregnancy Resource Centers and Clinics in our state? They are in Dickinson, Devils Lake, Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Park River, and Williston. Do you know there are three adoption services in Fargo, including the Catholic Charities, the Village Family Service Center, and the Christian Adoption Services, with hundreds of willing parents waiting to adopt a child? This is just a sampling of resources available in the state.

North Dakota can provide compassionate care and life-giving support to assist mothers and their babies by simply providing a web portal with links to those resources and many more.

I urge you to vote "Do Pass."