

Chairman Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee –

My name is Sierra Heitkamp and I am the Legislative Director for North Dakota Right to Life. I am here today to represent the interests and legislative initiatives of our thousands of members across the state of North Dakota.

Today we have before us SB 2302 which is intended to protect those most vulnerable in the state of North Dakota from discrimination. The bill is simple and it states, “[a] person may not discriminate against a recipient at any point in the organ transplant process, solely on the basis of the recipient's mental or physical disability, unless the disability has been adequately determined to be medically significant to the provision of an anatomical gift.”

At NDRL, our mission is to protect those most vulnerable from conception to natural death. Those diagnosed with physical or mental disability should be allowed the same opportunity as someone without a similar diagnosis when it comes to a life saving organ transplant.

Today, I ask this committee to stand with those most vulnerable and I ask for a **Do Pass Recommendation on SB 2302** in order to solidify the values of North Dakotans.

Thank you for your time today and I am available by phone or email to answer any questions you may have.



Sincerely,

Sierra M Heitkamp

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NDRL Legislative Director