

Senate Bill number 2335
House Human Service Committee
Testimony by Roger Loven
March 14, 2023

Chairman Weisz and Honorable Representatives of the Human Services Committee, I am appearing in opposition to Senate Bill 2335.

My name is Roger Loven. My wife and I have been foster parents in Burleigh County since 1991. Over the past 32 years we have been privileged to provide care for nearly 70 North Dakota children who have needed care outside of their home. I am a retired physician, having practiced anesthesiology in Bismarck for 35 years.

I am very much in favor of the State of North Dakota doing what it can to provide treatment and support to the victims of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. This disorder can be very debilitating to the victim of FAS and challenging to family members.

I am not in favor of requiring training on a specific disorder or syndrome or disease for every foster parent to obtain licensure. Foster parents are required to have continuing education each year and there is a wide variety of opportunities for that training. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome has been part of the continuing education that my wife and I have attended. As far as I know, passage of this law would be the first time that training for foster parents regarding a specific disorder would be written into law. This could lead to a cumbersome list of required training.

I find that foster parents seek out education and training for the conditions of the children currently in their care.

I ask for your no vote on this bill.

Thank You for your service to the citizens of North Dakota