



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2129

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Good afternoon Chairman Klemin and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. We are submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2129 and respectfully request that you issue a “DO PASS” on this bill.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action believes that as a state, we should assist expectant and new mothers. One effective way we have found to do this is through the Alternatives-to-Abortion program. However, this bill does many things, such as include medical services for reimbursement, expand the individuals who can be served, sets in law religious freedom protections for both the provider and the client, shifts funding from federal dollars to state dollars to avoid losing the funding, and increases the appropriation.

I am not a lawyer and certainly am not in a position to argue the merits of this bill based upon case law or legal precedent. So let me state it this way. The Alternatives-to-Abortion program is successful. It provides women with help and hope, the centers that are part of the program like it, and this bill expands who they can serve. In essence, it’s more of a good thing. As it states in Chapter 14-02 of the Century Code, commonly known as the Abortion Control Act:

14-02.1-01. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to protect unborn human life and maternal health within present constitutional limits. It reaffirms the tradition of the state of North Dakota to protect every human life whether unborn or aged, healthy or sick.

And that is exactly what this bill does.

For all the aforementioned reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action asks that you issue a “DO PASS” recommendation on SB 2129. With that, I’d be happy to stand for any questions.