



**Kayla Schmidt – Interim Executive Director, North Dakota Women’s Network
Support - SB 2181
North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee**

February 8, 2023

Chair Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Kayla Schmidt and I am the Interim Executive Director of the North Dakota Women’s Network (NDWN). We are a statewide organization working towards improving the lives of women and their families through education, advocacy, and activism. I am submitting testimony in support of full funding for Senate Bill 2181.

Our mission includes a focus on healthcare equity, expanding public health efforts, and support for policies that address the unique health care needs of women. In order to have healthier lives for themselves and their families, women need access to adequate medical care. This is especially critical during pregnancy, delivery, and post-delivery.

NDWN is in favor of SB2181’s language providing for the inclusion of services “for the duration of the pregnancy and the postpartum period consisting of the twelve - month period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy.” We ask that the committee approves SB2181 for full funding.

Thank you.

Kayla Schmidt
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