



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Testimony in Support of House Bill 1177

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Good morning Chairman Kannianen and honorable members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1177 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

With the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* and the likely upholding of our state’s “Trigger Law,” it is important that we as a state support pregnant and new mothers and their families. One very practical and impactful way to do this is to exempt diapers from sales taxes.

Diapers are just one of several expenses that can weigh heavily on a family with a new baby. An CBS News article last year estimated that a family’s average annual diaper cost can be as high as \$930 per child.<sup>1</sup> A sales tax exemption on this cost would be one immediate and significant way that we as a state can reduce the cost of parenthood.

If we are to be a state that promotes life, we should back up those words with actions. Moreover, the basis of any society is the family. Families are the building blocks of societies and they must be preserved and strengthened. This bill is one of the many ways we can financially help do this.

The sales tax exemption represents a very small percentage of overall state revenue, but can be of great financial help to pregnant and new mothers and their families. Because of this reason, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests that you render a “DO PASS” on House Bill 1177.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will be happy to stand for any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/diapers-cost-families-a-fortune-but-now-some-states-will-stop-taxing-them/>