



**CHRISTIAN ADOPTION  
SERVICES**  
EST. 1985

**Testimony of Jean Nasers  
Interim Director of Christian Adoption Services**

**Before the North Dakota Senate Committee on Human Services on SB 2195**

**SUPPORT  
January 23, 2023**

Thank you, Ms. Chairperson, and members of the Committee for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2195. I am the interim director for Christian Adoption Services and a member of the ND Pregnancy Resource Network.

A few months ago, I received a call from an expectant mom who wanted to meet with me to talk about what it would look like for her to make an adoption plan. We met the following week at a pregnancy center close to her home in rural North Dakota. When we met, she was nervous because she was already parenting other children but knew it would be extremely difficult for her to parent another child as a single parent. She and the father had not known one another for very long and had lots of conflict that would make coparenting hard on them and the child. In our meeting she expressed distress about not being able to know her child or choose the family her child would grow up with. She also was concerned about what her child would think about her not choosing to parent and what other people would think. I met her in this moment and listened to her share her heart, the heart of a mother. I spoke to her distress and concerns. I told her that my job is not to convince her to choose adoption but to help her to make a fully informed decision between parenting or adoption. To help her decide and not slide into a decision out of fear or without adequate support. I told her about open adoption. I explained that she can choose parents for her child, meet the adoptive family before baby is placed with them, and that she can have a lifelong relationship with her child and the adoptive family. The father from this situation felt the exact same way as the mother. After receiving all of the information on open adoption, both the birth mother and birth father decided to make an adoption plan.

In North Dakota, there are hundreds of families that seek to grow their family through domestic adoption but less than 2% of men and women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy choose adoption. In our experience in the trenches with these men and women, the reason why adoption is not considered as often as parenting (and abortion) is because there is a lack of public awareness and knowledge of the current practices surrounding domestic adoption. Those experiencing unplanned pregnancies cannot access services they do not know are available and they will not access services that they have misconceptions about.

The time has arrived for North Dakota to provide public awareness on resources available to expectant parents. The funding provided by this bill would allow us to support public awareness on open adoption, training for staff and volunteers, and funds to be able to travel to expectant parents throughout the entire state, especially those in more rural parts or those that do not have the means to travel. If honored with the full amount of funds requested, my agency would use the funds as follows (each year for two years):

**Public Awareness: \$115,000**

**Training/ Education for Staff & Volunteers: \$35,000**

**Travel Expenses to Support Expectant & Birth Parents: \$50,000**

Please support Senate Bill 2195 so we can increase and continue to provide support to expectant and birth parents throughout North Dakota. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

Jean M Nasers

**West Fargo Office**  
2345 Meadow Ridge Parkway  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
701.237.4473

**Bismarck Office**  
PO Box 149  
Bismarck, ND  
58501  
701.354.3992