



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2195

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
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Good Morning Madam Chair Lee and honorable members of the Senate Human Services 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 Senate Bill 2195 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

Pregnant mothers and families often need help for a variety of reasons, from low incomes and lack of childcare training, to the emotional trauma inflicted by those around them who don’t support their pregnancy. It’s simply a fact, they often require help, and in this state we should be able to provide that help.

With the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* last year and the hopeful successful defense of our state’s Trigger Law on abortion, expectant mothers will be seeking options other than abortion to address their circumstances and demands for these services will grow. We as a state and faith community must stand at the ready to help with these needs.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action and our constituents believe strongly, from both a societal and faith basis, in helping pregnant mothers, their children, the fathers, and other family members receive the resources that they may desperately need. This bill does just that – provides help all along their journey in a wholistic manner, potentially through a variety of organizations that can provide an assortment of supportive goods and services. Organizations that address needs before, during, and after birth, as well as organizations that provide healing for post abortive mothers, all offer incredibly valuable services to mothers and their families.

We recognize that this bill is a starting point and implementation will require work. The bill provides a grant to an organization, but that organization needs to be identified and/or possibly created. A way of distributing funds will need to be created as well. We are not sure how much of this needs to be in the Century Code versus administrative rules, but we trust that those questions can be addressed. SB 2195 is an important starting point and we are confident that the committee and the sponsor can work together on any clarification and specificity that may be needed.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests that you render a “DO PASS” on Senate Bill 2195, with the suggestion of discussions to add further specificity to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am now happy to answer any questions.