

Testimony prepared for the
Senate Human Services Committee
January 24, 2023

By: Desiree Sorenson, Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone Director

RE: SB2268 Provide an Appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for a Pilot program for support services for youth at risk

Chairman, and Members of the Committee. My name is Desiree Sorenson, I am the Director of the Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone. I am here today to provide support for money appropriated, that would go towards supportive services for youth at risk. However, I have concerns for the limited details within this bill regarding timeframe and regulations for implementation, in order for this to be successful for all.

More information would be needed from other stakeholders that provide services to youth at risk, in order to ensure successful implementation and use of funds. The information in this bill is very much needed to make the best decision for each youth involved and their individual needs.

Often there are children in crisis and in need of further assessment to identify the most appropriate service delivery to meet the needs of the child. It is critical that during that period of assessment children have access to safety and shelter, to establish a baseline for further needs.

This completes my testimony. I am available for any questions.