North Dakota Women's Network

**Kayla Schmidt – Interim Executive Director, North Dakota Women's Network**
**Opposition - SB 2150**
**North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee**

January 16, 2023

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kayla Schmidt and I am the Interim Executive Director of the North Dakota Women's Network.

We are a statewide organization working towards improving the lives of women across North Dakota with the support of our members and advocates. I am providing testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 2150.

Our mission includes empowering women to take an informed role in their health care decisions. We rely on medical experts to guide us in making these personal choices.

While SB2150 does allow care providers with "exceptions" instead of the burden of "affirmative defenses," the bill does not account for the many complications that may arise during a pregnancy. The expertise of a doctor should not be overshadowed by limited definitions that restrict their ability to treat patients. North Dakotans deserve to receive medical care that is not hindered by interference from the government.

When women have adequate access to reproductive health services, they are more likely to attain economic stability, maintain emotional and physical health, and build strong families and futures.

North Dakotans deserve healthcare that preserves their personal liberty, dignity, and privacy. Senate Bill 2150 endangers these ideals; thus, we ask for a "Do Not Pass" recommendation from this committee.

Thank you.

Kayla Schmidt
director@ndwomen.org