

Chairwoman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee –

My name is Sierra Heitkamp and I am the Legislative Director for North Dakota Right to Life. I am here today to represent the interests and legislative initiatives of their base comprised of 3700 citizens across the state of North Dakota.

Since the overturn of Roe V. Wade on June 24, 2022, there has been a rise in questions in what this means for pregnant women and families to find themselves pregnant in North Dakota. At North Dakota Right to Life, we questioned ourselves as to how our vision and goals may have to evolve moving forward to adequately protect those most vulnerable from conception to natural death

After many conversations, the answer became clear – not only will we continue our work in protect life at all stages, but we also want to back legislation that educates our citizens on resources available and encourages life. A woman or family who finds themselves with an unexpected pregnancy should never feel that abortion is their best option to achieve a successful, happy life. Legislation like SB 2185 is the future for helping those most vulnerable in our state.

This bill, if passed, would develop a pregnancy and parenting resource website that will educate and guide these expecting mothers and families as they navigate the benefits provided in North Dakota. ***The website will have links to social services, financial assistance, adoption services, pregnancy and parenting information, planning guidance, care centers and agencies, and other available public and private resources for expectant families and new parents.*** A resource like this website would be critical for groups like North Dakota Right to Life when directing those who reach out to use for assistance and guidance.

I ask this committee today for a ***Do Pass recommendation on SB 2185*** in order to solidify the values of North Dakotans as we continue to provide resources for those pregnant women and families to find themselves in crisis pregnancy.

Thank you for your time today and I will now stand for any questions that the committee may have.



Sincerely,

Sierra Heitkamp

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NDRL Legislative Director