



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2188

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
January 17, 2023

Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. Our organization is submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2188 and respectfully requests that you issue a “DO PASS” on this bill. While North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action supports this bill, we also believe that some changes might be considered.

Senate Bill 2188 supports that parents are the final arbiters of their child’s education, medical treatment, mental health treatment, moral and religious training, and general upbringing. This is entirely consistent with biblical mandates and with our organization’s values. The religious freedom embodied in this bill is fundamental to North Dakota law and to who we are as a state.

On the other hand, SB 2188 tries to address a huge number of facets related to parental rights vis-à-vis their children. We believe that this might be better served through multiple, more targeted bills and perhaps some refining of text. That said, it is up to the sponsor and committee to decide that.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action supports Senate Bill 2188, with the request that you consider our previously noted changes. Despite some reservations with the bill structure and language, our organization requests that you pass it out of committee with a “DO PASS” recommendation.

Thank you for allowing me to testify, and I’d now be happy to stand for any questions.