



CHRISTIAN ADOPTION
SERVICES
EST. 1985

**Testimony of Jean Nasers
Administrator of Christian Adoption Services**

Before the North Dakota House Committee on Human Services on HB 1205

**SUPPORT
January 23, 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and members of the Committee for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 1205. I am the administrator for Christian Adoption Services and a member of the ND Pregnancy Resource Network.

This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and well-being of infants while also providing parents with a compassionate alternative during moments of vulnerability. By enhancing the existing framework for newborn safety devices and procedures, we reaffirm our collective commitment to safeguarding the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

However, I urge this committee to consider an important clarification within this bill. When an infant is safe havened in North Dakota, the path forward should not lead to the child entering the foster care system. Instead, private domestic adoption agencies (such as Catholic Charities of North Dakota, All About U Adoptions, and Christian Adoption Services) should be contacted promptly to provide these children with a stable, loving, and permanent home as quickly as possible. Such a measure not only secures the best outcomes for these children but also alleviates the financial and administrative burden on the state. Allocating resources to long-term foster care when viable adoption solutions are readily available represents an inefficient use of government funds and does not prioritize the child's need for permanency or the surrendering parent's intent.

This clarification would ensure that the intent of this bill—to provide immediate safety and long-term stability for abandoned infants—is fully realized. By partnering with adoption agencies, we can streamline this process and demonstrate a commitment to both fiscal responsibility and the best interests of these children. I thank the committee for its thoughtful consideration of this suggestion and its dedication to the well-being of North Dakota's families and children.

Sincerely,

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