

House Bill No. 1478
House Judiciary Committee
Testimony Presented Seth O’Neill, JD, MSW
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Chairman Ruby and the Members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Seth O’Neill, and I represent the North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition, in support of HB 1478.

Domestic violence victims do not feel they can leave an abusive relationship due to having a child with their abuser. Frequently, abusers will use children as a form of abuse, withholding their children from the survivors or even physically and mentally abusing the children as well. Contraceptives are a very important resource for victims in order to avoid an unplanned pregnancy.

Another aspect of contraception that protects survivors would be preventing the financial burden of an unplanned pregnancy. An unplanned pregnancy can have intense financial strain on a victim which can impact the survivor’s ability to leave the abusive relationship. Having a child for anyone is an expensive choice, but when it is unintentional it can cause more strain on the parent due to their inability to plan for it.

Chairman Ruby, and members of the committee, we believe it is important for all North Dakotans to have access to contraceptives. We encourage the committee to give HB 1478 a “Do-Pass” recommendation. I appreciate your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank You.

