

## House Human Services Committee

### HB 1478

Wednesday January 29, 2025

Chair Ruby and Committee Members, I am Katie Casey, a Family Nurse Practitioner who works in a clinic that provides obstetrics and gynecology care. I currently practice as a nurse practitioner at Altru Health System in Grand Forks, North Dakota. I have completed my bachelor's and advanced nursing degree at the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University, respectively.

I am writing in support of HB 1478.

Access to contraception is an essential component of health care. In the time that I have been practicing, the initiation, management, and continued use of contraception has been a large part of my practice. The access to contraception allows a woman to decide when and if to pursue a pregnancy and helps manage many serious medical conditions, many of which are listed in this bill. The benefits of contraception are numerous, such as reduced morbidity through improved health and well-being, reduced mortality, the opportunity to allow women to achieve education and employment goals, and the opportunity to become economically self-reliant.

Please consider approving HB 1478 so women of North Dakota may continue to have the right to contraception to delay childbearing until personally ready, to treat serious morbidity experienced by many, as well as prevent mortality. Thank you for listening to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Katie Casey