

House Human Services Committee
HB 1595
February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the Committee,

My name is Hanna Magnuson, and I am a social work student, taxpayer, and future member of the workforce. I am here today to express my strong support for HB 1595, which establishes necessary guidelines for state funding allocated to "alternatives to abortion" programs.

Throughout my four years of rigorous study in social work, I have learned the importance of professional ethics, evidence-based practice, and the critical role of licensed professionals in providing support services. It is deeply concerning that our state allows public funds to go toward organizations that provide counseling and other services without requiring proper licensure, education, or oversight. Counseling is a profession that requires extensive training in mental health, trauma-informed care, and ethical decision-making—skills that cannot be replaced by well-intentioned but unqualified individuals.

Pregnant people deserve compassionate, ethical, and medically accurate care from trained professionals who are held to established standards of practice. Without these safeguards, individuals seeking support may receive misleading, harmful, or biased information, which can have life-altering consequences. State funding must be directed toward services that meet professional and ethical standards, ensuring that all individuals receive high-quality, evidence-based care.

As a future social worker, I fully support HB 1595 and urge this committee to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly—to support services provided by licensed professionals who are qualified to offer real, ethical, and effective care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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