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Good day, House Human Services Committee Members,

I am here today to testify in opposition to HB 1595, a bill that seeks to impose unnecessary and burdensome regulations on pregnancy resource centers in our state.

The work that these centers do is invaluable to our local communities. Many women facing unexpected pregnancies rely on these resources for critical support, helping them care for their children from conception through the early years of life. These centers offer free pregnancy tests, parenting classes, material assistance, and counseling. In some cases, they have even raised funds to provide new mothers with transportation, such as a working vehicle, so they can care for their child and their family.

A crucial distinction to recognize is that pregnancy resource centers do not claim to be healthcare facilities. They do not provide medical treatment, nor do they advertise themselves as medical centers. Rather, they exist to offer emotional, practical, and material support to women in need. The argument that these centers should be required to provide information about abortion is both misguided and irrelevant, given that North Dakota's law—though currently in litigation—prohibits abortion. Why should we force organizations to promote a procedure that is illegal under state law?

Furthermore, pregnancy centers are a vital asset to North Dakota families. In Burleigh County alone, ***one in every six children*** starts their life with support from the local pregnancy center. These organizations step in where government assistance often falls short, ensuring that women have access to the care and resources they need. Placing additional regulations on them would only hinder their ability to serve those in crisis.

Instead of overburdening these centers with unnecessary red tape, we should be supporting their efforts to uplift women and families in our communities. I urge this committee to recognize the essential role pregnancy resource centers play and to vote **Do Not Pass** on HB 1595.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bridget Turbide