

Human Services Committee

HCR 3014

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Chair Ruby and members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Dr. Jerry Obritsch and I am writing in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3014 introduced by Representative Rohr and colleagues. I am an Obstetrician/Gynecologist having practiced my entire career at Mid Dakota clinic, now Essentia Health, here in Bismarck, for the past 33 years.

HCR 3014 recognizes the importance of vitamin D in our diets and especially in the diet of the pregnant woman. In a recent study by Beck et al, in [The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition Volume 121, Issue 2](#), February 2025, Pages 376-384, entitled, “Maternal vitamin D status, fetal growth patterns, and adverse pregnancy outcomes in a multisite prospective pregnancy cohort”, the findings underscore the importance of monitoring and potentially supplementing vitamin D in early pregnancy to improve birth outcomes. The study concludes, “early pregnancy vitamin D levels are crucial for fetal growth and reducing preterm birth risk”. In 2023, North Dakota experienced a 10.3% live preterm birth rate) <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/united-states/prematurity-profile>). Although multifactorial in cause, any factor that will reduce live preterm deliveries needs to be seriously addressed and espoused. Vitamin D deficiency is indeed one area that can be concretely addressed.

I have read the testimony of my colleague, Dr. Tom Arnold, Chair of the North Dakota Maternal Mortality Review Committee. As a member of that committee as well, I highly respect his medical opinion and concur with his accurate testimony.

I respectfully request this committee support this legislation and am grateful and commend Representative Rohr and her colleagues for bringing this resolution forward for consideration. This resolution reflects the importance we need to place on maternal and fetal wellbeing. My goal in my Obstetrical practice has always been, “Healthy Mom and healthy baby”.

Respectfully submitted,

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