

# BRINSTER LAW, P.C.

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February 10, 2025

House Judiciary Committee  
Room 327B  
ND State Capital  
Bismarck, ND

RE: HB 1242 relating to parental rights and responsibilities

Hon. Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I have been an attorney for 15 years with the primary area of my private practice in family law. I sat on the Measure 6 committee a few years ago as well, when this same subject went to the voters of North Dakota and was defeated.

I take a lot of pride in what I do as an attorney and my role in helping families through a very difficult process. Looking at the Best Interest Factors as they have been outlined in the North Dakota Century Code has helped many people determine what was best for their children. When I had a copy of those factors to my clients and ask them to outline each one for each parent, I know that they have had to stop and think about what was best for their family. The Best Interest Factors give practitioners and judges something to look to for a framework and structure to outline the facts of each individual case. Cutting those out of the law is going to cut out a huge piece of what works best in our system.

After the Measure 6 campaign, several attorneys from that committee came together and tried to figure out how we could propose changes that would make our laws better. What we found, after surveying several states, was that North Dakota already had it right. We were already doing what many were doing and doing it better than most.

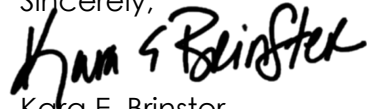
The opposition often sites to attorneys trying to keep the conflict in divorce and custody so we can make money. My answer to that is this, I am pretty familiar with most of the Family Law Bar in North Dakota and I cannot point to one attorney that is in this to draw out the process or to run their bill up. Those of us who do this work are truly in it to help families. We promote mediation and avoiding court whenever possible.

These are unnecessary changes and downright dangerous to families. These changes would take discretion away from the Judges that see people in their courtrooms and can best determine what is happening in their lives.

North Dakota's children and families are not one size fits all. Our citizens deserve better than to have laws that would treat them that way.

Please do NOT pass these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara E. Brinster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kara E. Brinster  
Attorney at Law

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