

January 20, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB 1361

Chairman Lawrence Klemin
Judiciary Committee
North Dakota House of Representatives
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Stephanie Jorritsma, and I am testifying as a citizen of North Dakota.

I was blessed to grow up in a loving and safe home with parents who would have done anything to protect me. Unfortunately, there are children around our state who grow up in places that are not safe, where traffickers can enter their lives. Sometimes, those traffickers are their own parents.

I have never been afraid to go home—but I have seen a friend spend hours at home not knowing when their parent will come back, only to be screamed at upon their return. I have never been abused—but I know of a girl, abused for years by her father—a father who will get out of prison before her little brother turns 18. I have not been trafficked—but I am here to speak for those who have been. It takes time and safety to heal from trafficking, and we owe it to those who have been trafficked to give them time to heal. I cannot fix their pain or restore what has been hurt, but I am testifying so that it does not happen again.

In this light, I ask that you support a **DO PASS** on House Bill 1361.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Jorritsma
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