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**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**From:** David Tamisiea, Executive Director  
**Date:** February 17, 2025  
**Re:** HCR 3028 — Human Trafficking Study

The North Dakota Catholic Conference strongly supports common-sense legislation to fight against the scourge of human trafficking and the closely related crimes of prostitution and commercial exploitation of children. These intersecting crimes violate the dignity of the human person, the sanctity of human life, and fundamental rights of the human person.

All three of the last popes (John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have publicly decried human trafficking and called for its eradication and for the protection of its victims. Our two North Dakotan bishops, Bishop David and Bishop John Folda, have also asked that addressing the problem of human trafficking be made a legislative priority.

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked for labor or commercial sex acts worldwide – including right here in North Dakota. It can happen in any community, and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Human trafficking often is hidden and goes unidentified. It is a crime that flourishes in darkness.

Over the past year, service providers, department officials, and other stakeholders have shared with the North Dakota Catholic Conference some of the challenges in fighting human trafficking. These challenges include a lack of clarity in defining human trafficking, insufficient data on trafficking in our state, disagreements over the appropriate length of stay for trafficked youth in residential treatment facilities, and a pressing need for clear standards for identifying and preventing human trafficking. HCR 3028 aims to address these issues by directing Legislative Management to conduct a study to assess human trafficking victim service and reentry programs.

We respectfully ask for a **Do Pass** recommendation on House Concurrent Resolution 3028.