



February 3, 2025

Testimony of Lisa Hanson, Founder of The Next Step ND

Senate Bill NO. 2330 an ACT concerning mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions.

Chairman Beard and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Lisa Hanson and I am the founder of The Next Step ND, which is a program under The Impact Foundation. I established this program in 2012 after hearing from a speaker about the horrors of human trafficking. The Next Step ND is a financial and relationship-building program for survivors of human trafficking who are getting established back into the community. In addition to supporting survivors, we also focus on prevention through awareness campaign and educational speaking events at churches, schools, homes, and other venues we are invited to share. Over the years we have helped hundreds of women, children and men through financial and emotional support. While God has truly blessed this organization, my hope is to one day dissolve this chapter because there will be no need for The Next Step ND and this bill could help do just that.

I wholeheartedly support Senate Bill 2330 and urge you to do the same. If passed, this bill has the potential to positively impact thousands of children and educational leaders across North Dakota by hindering trafficker's efforts, preventing potential victims from falling into the cycles of exploitation, and change and reshape the hearts of our children to avoid the dangers of pornography addiction.

This legislation is an important step in safeguarding our youth and fostering a culture of awareness and prevention in the darkness of human trafficking and therefore should be passed.

Thank you for your consideration in taking this next step that North Dakota's children so desperately need!

Sincerely,

Lisa Hanson

Founder of The Next Step ND

