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To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: David Tamisiea, Executive Director
Date: February 5, 2025
Re: SB 2330 — Human Trafficking Education in Schools

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 Kagan and Bishop John Folda, have 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.

According to the federal Department of Homeland Security, one of the most effective means of combatting human trafficking is being able to recognize the crime and identify its victims.

SB 2330 aims to address the problem of human trafficking by establishing a mandatory human trafficking education program for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education. This program would raise awareness about human trafficking, help students identify trafficked victims, give them knowledge about common risk factors, and enlist their help in preventing trafficking from ever happening.

We respectfully ask for a **Do Pass** recommendation on Senate Bill 2330.