

March 10, 2025

Chairman Lee and the members of the Senate Human Services committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1430.

This bill attempts to override our social workers’ code of ethics.

I don’t understand why the legislature feels the need to interfere with our social work organizations. ND social workers are professionals who hold advanced degrees in their fields. The sponsors of this bill seek to undermine the rules written by professional social workers and their organizational processes.

Is the Legislature going to give precedence for the personal religious and/or feelings of unqualified representatives to override the judgment of North Dakota’s Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers? What’s next? Will the legislature tell the ND Safety Council to rewrite their policies because they don’t personally like to wear seatbelts?

I trust our trained, licensed, and experienced social workers to best determine ethical social work practice.

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1430.

Thank you for your service to the people of North Dakota.

Best,

Mariah Ralston