

Testimony Before the North Dakota Senate

In Support of Senate Bill No. 2380

Presented by: Tami Brown Rodriquez

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Honorable Senators,

My name is Tami Brown Rodriquez and I stand before you today not just as the **Director of Policy for Jaco Booyens Ministries**, an organization that fights tirelessly against human trafficking, but as a family member of a **precious girl who was stolen from us, manipulated, and exploited for 15 years**—because our laws did not protect her.

My niece, Dakota, was groomed in school and online. What began as innocent interactions quickly turned into a predator's playground, where traffickers whispered lies, filled her mind with deception, and slowly broke down the barriers that should have kept her safe. She was only **14 years old** when she was taken, lured into a world no child should ever know. **She was trafficked for 15 years**—fifteen years of stolen innocence, fifteen years of unspeakable horror, fifteen years where she was nothing more than a commodity to evil men.

And the horrifying truth is—**she is not the only one.**

The internet has become the most dangerous tool in the hands of traffickers, giving them unrestricted access to our children. They no longer have to lurk in alleyways or parking lots. **Now, they enter our homes through smartphones and laptops.** With a few clicks, they gain direct access to the most vulnerable, exposing them to content that grooms them for exploitation and conditions them to accept abuse as normal.

That is why Senate Bill 2380 is not just **legislation—it is a moral imperative.**

This bill is sweeping the nation because leaders across the country **recognize the urgency**—over **18 states have already adopted it.** They understand that **if we do not act, we are complicit in the destruction of our own children.**

North Dakota has a choice today: **stand up and defend your children, or turn a blind eye and allow traffickers to continue their work unchecked.**

I cannot change the past. I cannot erase the years of suffering Dakota endured. But you can **change the future** for the next child. You have the power to stop another family from enduring the agony of **losing their daughter, their son—to the hands of traffickers.** I am begging you—not as a policy director, not as an advocate, but as a heartbroken family member—**do the right thing. Pass Senate Bill 2380. Stand between the predators and the children they seek to destroy. Our kids cannot wait.**

Thank you.

