



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Testimony Supporting House Concurrent Resolution 3028

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Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3028 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this resolution.

Our organization believes that every person has inherent worth, and dignity given from God. Human trafficking, in its various forms, steals that worth and dignity away from the people who are victims of it. A person becomes dehumanized and is turned into a product, rather than a soul with worth, capability, and potential. They deserve to be loved. That feeling of love gets ripped away when people are bought and sold like a commodity.

Human trafficking crimes are incredibly traumatic to their victims. Victims are severely affected by these crimes. An article in the American Psychological Association journal says, “[Human trafficking] can cause a loss of basic human rights, loss of one’s childhood, disruption in families, and severe mental health consequences, including anxiety disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and substance abuse.”<sup>1</sup>

We’ve heard tragic stories from groups that work with human trafficking victims. One example is from a woman who was trafficked and everywhere she went, even though her trafficker was in prison, she thought that every time a door opened, or someone walked into a room, the person walking in was going to be her trafficker. She lived in constant fear of that person coming back to get her.

Because of the severe psychological effects of human trafficking, there can be a great deal of trouble in trying to reintegrate victims into society. This resolution provides for a study to see how our state can best help the victims that we have to re-enter society safely. This is a portion of services to human trafficking victims that is incredibly important, and our state needs to be sure we can help these victims in every way possible. For these reasons, North Dakota Family

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<sup>1</sup> Novotney, A. (2023, April 24). *Trafficking of women and girls*. American Psychological Association. <https://www.apa.org/topics/women-girls/trafficking-women-girls#:~:text=The%20physical%20and%20mental%20health,emotional%20attachment%20to%20their%20abuser.>

Alliance Legislative Action requests that you vote “DO PASS” on this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will stand for any questions.