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LaCosta Rickford
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10/15/03
Date

2003 SENATE JUDICIARY

SB 2034

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2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2034

Senate Judiciary Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 15, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
SB 2034	X		00-9.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Maria L. Salberg</i>			

Minutes: **Senator John T. Traynor, Chairman**, called the meeting to order. Sen. Traynor requested meeting starts with testimony on the bill.

Testimony in support of SB 2034

Sen Linda Christenson -Vice Chair on the interim committee on Family Law. I am in support of this bill. This bill is a housekeeping bill. Terminology change from Natural to Biological.

Sen. Traynor: What is the difference between Natural Vs Biological?

Julie Hoffman - Attachment (4.5 meter)

Senator Carolyn Nelson How many children have been adopted in the state of ND? (8.7 meter)

197 and this includes step parent adoptions

Leanne Johnson - Attachment (meter 5.1)

Leanne Johnson - Lutheran Social Services - Attached written testimony for review.

Testimony in opposition of SB 2034:

There was no testimony in opposition.

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Senate Judiciary Committee
Bill/Resolution Number 2034
Hearing Date January 15, 2003

Testimony neutral to SB 2034:

Jennifer Clark - Legislature Council Interim Clerk on SB 2034 - All house keeping in nature.

This is only a terminology Natural Vs Unnatural and Biological.

Senator Stanley W. Lyson, Vice Chairman moved a DO PASS. Senator Dennis Bercier second the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 6Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent

Motion carried,

Carrier: Senator Carolyn Nelson

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10/15/03
Date

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 15, 2003 1:27 p.m.

Module No: SR-07-0601
Carrier: Nelson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2034: Judiciary Committee (Sen. Traynor, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2034 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2003 HOUSE JUDICIARY

SB 2034

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La Costa Rickford 10/15/03
Operator's Signature Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2034

House Judiciary Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-26-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	XX		5.1-7.2
1	XX		40.4-41
2	XX		3.6-4.5

Committee Clerk Signature *A. Penrose*

Minutes: 12 members present, 1 member absent (Rep. Onstad).

Chairman DeKrey: We will open the hearing on SB 2034.

Rebecca Doll, Social Worker Village Family Service Center: Support (see attached testimony and testimony of LeAnne Johnson, who didn't testify).

Chairman DeKrey: Jennifer Clark, from Legislative Council, will be here later to testify.

Any further testimony in support of SB 2034. Opposition to SB 2034. We will close the hearing.

(The hearing was reopened later in the same session.)

Chairman DeKrey: We will hear the testimony of Jennifer Clark.

Jennifer Clark, Legislative Council: This is a housekeeping bill to change some of the terms.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. We will close the hearing.

(Reopened the session in the afternoon)

Chairman DeKrey: What are the committee's wishes in regard to SB 2034.

Page 2
House Judiciary Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2034
Hearing Date 2-26-03

Rep. Kretschmar: I move a Do Pass.

Rep. Delmore: Seconded.

12 YES 0 NO 1 ABSENT

DO PASS

CARRIER: Rep. Wrangham

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La Costa Rickford

10/15/03

Date

Date: 2/26/03
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2034

House Judiciary Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Kretschmar Seconded By Rep. Delmore

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman DeKrey	✓		Rep. Delmore	✓	
Vice Chairman Maragos	✓		Rep. Eckre	✓	
Rep. Bernstein	✓		Rep. Onstad	AB	
Rep. Boehning	✓				
Rep. Galvin	✓				
Rep. Grande	✓				
Rep. Kingsbury	✓				
Rep. Klemin	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Wrangham	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Wrangham

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 26, 2003 2:03 p.m.

Module No: HR-34-3530
Carrier: Wrangham
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2034: Judiciary Committee (Rep. DeKrey, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2034 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

HR-34-3530

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La Costa Rickford

10/15/03

Date

2003 TESTIMONY

SB 2034

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10/15/03
Date

1/15

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senate Bill 2034

January 15, 2003

Chairman Traynor and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee; my name is Julie Hoffman, Administrator of Adoption Services for the Department of Human Services. I am here today to present testimony regarding Senate Bill 2034. The Department supports the passage of Senate Bill 2034 related to NDCC 14-17, the Uniform Parentage Act.

This bill is a result of the Family Law Committee's Interim study of adoption law in North Dakota. An informal work group of adoption professionals collaborated on a review of adoption law and are recommending the changes proposed for this statute.

Simply stated, this bill advocates for the use of positive adoption language, specifically here in a statute that is used by adoption professionals as they work with birth parents. Adoption professionals prefer the term "birth" or "biological" in referring to a child's first set of parents, since the term "natural" then conveys that the adoption or the adoptive parents of the child are somehow "unnatural".

This may seem like a minor issue, however, the informal work group that assisted the Family Law Committee has sought to correct similar reference throughout the statutes we reviewed. Words do indeed engender emotion and change perspective, and for that reason we have recommended this change in language.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

LaCosta Rickford
Operator's Signature

10/15/03
Date

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senate Bill Number 2034
January 15, 2003

4/15
Same testimony given
to House

Chairman Traynor and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Leanne Johnson. I am employed with Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota and serve as the A.A.S.K. Adoption Director. I am here today to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 2034 related to North Dakota Century Code 17-17, the Uniform Parentage Act.

The A.A.S.K. program is a collaborative effort between Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, The Village Family Service Center, Catholic Family Service and the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Turtle Mountain Child Welfare and Family Services is affiliated with A.A.S.K. This program is responsible for the adoption of children with special needs who are in the custody of the Department of Human Services.

I have had the opportunity to be a part of the informal work group, referenced in Ms. Hoffman's testimony, charged with the task to examine adoption law in North Dakota. I recognize that it might seem that the changes proposed are minor and just a matter of words. However, there is little doubt that the words we use in our daily and written language speak volumes. This is especially the case when we realize the ramifications to those impacted by adoption. Adoptive parents certainly should never be referred to as "an unnatural parent." The clarifications proposed by this bill would be an opportunity to recognize the contributions of those impacted by adoption in a respectful, supportive and positive manner. It would also be an opportunity to bring the language consistent with proposed changes to NDCC 14-15 (as contained in HB 1035) as referenced in Section 2 of this bill.

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10/15/03
Date

In closing, I encourage the committee to give a "do-pass" recommendation to this bill. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Page 2 of 2

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LaCosta Rickford 10/15/03
Operator's Signature Date

**House Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 2034
February 26, 2003**

Chairman DeKrey and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Becky Doll of the Village Family Service Center in Bismarck. I am here to present testimony for Julie Hoffman, Administrator of Adoption Services for the Department of Human Services. Ms. Hoffman is unable to be here today, since there are two other adoption related bills being heard in other committees at this same time. The Department supports the passage of Senate Bill 2034 related to NDCC 14-17, the Uniform Parentage Act.

This bill is a result of the Family Law Committee's Interim study of adoption law in North Dakota. An informal work group of adoption professionals collaborated on a review of adoption law and are recommending the changes proposed for this statute.

Simply stated, this bill advocates for the use of positive adoption language, specifically here in a statute that is used by adoption professionals as they work with birth parents. Adoption professionals prefer the term "birth" or "biological" in referring to a child's first set of parents, since the term "natural" then conveys that the adoption or the adoptive parents of the child are somehow "unnatural".

This may seem like a minor issue, however, the informal work group that assisted the Family Law Committee has sought to correct similar reference throughout the statutes we reviewed. Words do indeed engender emotion and change perspective, and for that reason we have recommended this change in language.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. I know Ms. Hoffman is also available at the request of the committee should you have questions for her. Ms. Hoffman's phone number is 328-4805.

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