

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/24/2017

Amendment to: SB 2342

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium		2019-2021 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium	2019-2021 Biennium
Counties			
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

There is no fiscal impact.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*
- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*
- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name: Pam Sharp

Agency: OMB

Telephone: 701-328-4904

Date Prepared: 01/25/2017

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/24/2017

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2342

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2017 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2342

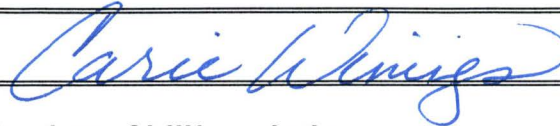
2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2342
1/30/2017
Job Number 27565

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, and to provide a report to the legislative management.

Minutes:

Attachments: 1-6

Chair J. Lee: Opened the hearing on SB 2342. All members were present.

Senator Grabinger, District 12: (0:33-2:25) **See Attachment #1** for testimony to explain and in support of the bill.

Representative Bernie Satrom, District 12: (3:20-9:00) **See Attachment #2** for testimony in support of the bill. **See Attachment #3** for additional testimony in favor provided to the committee from Erin Merryn.

Senator Kreun: How many people are on the committee now?

Chair J. Lee: It is in Section 2 of Section 1. It adds up to about 12.

Representative Satrom: I have the amendment, its missing the child advocacy. **See Attachment #4.**

Paula Condol, Director, Children's Advocacy Center of North Dakota and Dakota Children's Advocacy Center: (11:00-16:47) **See Attachment #5** for testimony in favor of the bill.

Senator Anderson: I don't see that the bill designates a lead agency or someone to take charge of this thing. Unless someone is designated to lead, nothing usually gets moved forward.

Representative Satrom: I think that this group would be better to advise who might lead this.

Senator Piepkorn: Is there nothing in place now for education on prevention of sexual abuse, is this a blank and this will come in and fill that void?

Paula Condol: There are certain agencies that have independently made policies that require prevention of sexual abuse in their agency or their community, but I don't believe that

there is a state wide task force that would address something on this grand of a scale that would recommend policies as a state.

Chair J. Lee: I've been involved with CAC for a few years now and I think the people that work there are so remarkable to be able to deal with this just sucks my breath away. We should not need this but we certainly do. There are diverse programs but there is not overall network. I am a big fan of the health information hub and this would be another example of being able to pull together information about the various providers of these services around the state, what they do, and how they might be able to work together to make sure the coverage is more broad.

(18:55) **Senator Kreun:** Will this ebb and flow have a downturn to it in some point in time as the stress leaves to some degree and normalcy takes place again?

Paula Condol: Yes, I would say that's the question, normalcy. Even though our referrals increased by 100 last year, I believe this year we sustained that. It becomes the new normal. We do that with the same amount of staff and everyone just digs in and works as hard as they can because these kids are important. It could ebb and flow, but typically you end up sustaining the greater amount.

Senator Piepkorn: What do you tell a 4-year-old when you educate them?

Paula Condol: We have a lot of different resources. Typically, when I go out to a preschool classroom we have a book that I read to the classroom that is titled "My Body Belongs to Me", and it is done on a preschool level. The biggest thing that I see is that we have gotten pretty good about doing "stranger danger". It makes me cringe. Even though it's a possibility that a child gets abducted on the side of the road, it is a rare occurrence. But, having 1 in 4 children getting sexually abused – that is a pretty common number. We tell them they need to talk to an adult they trust and we talk about who that would be. With the grade school kids we talk to them all the time about their body safety drill. I want them to talk about it often and talk about it with their parents. It should be practiced like a fire drill so that if something ever happens, they know what to do.

Senator Clemens: When you find out there's been an issue, and then the identity of the person that has done this terrible thing is discovered, are there immediate steps taken to get that person under questioning or reported? What's the follow up?

Paula Condol: A report gets made to social services and law enforcement and they are required to follow up within 24 hours. Typically, the process that we prefer is that they contact the children's advocacy centers to have a forensic interview done. The child gets interviewed, and when that happens there are others that are watching the interview over closed circuit tv so they can see and hear what the child is saying at the same time. If they have questions that they need answered, the interviewer has a bug in their ear and they can ask their questions through the interviewer. That way the child only has to talk to one person. Then we meet together as a team that day and we follow up later to talk about what needs to happen.

Senator Clemens: Do you feel that's working as effective as it can?

Paula Condol: I think it works very well when it is used. It is utilized quite a bit. In order to be an accredited center we all have to verify that process is happening at least 70% of the

time. We have all been accredited for a long time so I know that it is happening a majority of the time. There are cases that fall through for whatever reasons and they don't make it to a children's advocacy center. We would prefer that they do but it is not always possible.

Senator Kreun: What's the numbers comparing male to female?

Paula Condol: This year was 30% male and 70% female. I have updated stats that you can pick up with the updated statistics.

Vice Chair Larsen: Do you think that sexual confusion, gender identity, and early sexual awareness are signs of child abuse?

Paula Condol: Research does not support that right now. We have seen kids struggle with all kinds of issues because of sexual abuse. True gender identity and sexual orientation is not defined by a traumatic event.

V-Chair Larsen: If this task force goes on, will we be looking into that with this study?

Paula Condol: I think that one of the rolls that this task force will take on is looking at the huge body of national research out there and, although you could do your own research, I don't know if we'd have the funds or man power to do that. Because there is such a diverse group on the task force, I hope that they look at a variety of reasons and issues that we can address in the state.

Chair J. Lee: On the big behavioral health project we talked about a task force for children's behavior health. It started out with 31 people on the task force, but the feeling of other parties involved with this was that having a smaller group that was kind of a steering committee that would follow through with folks in these other areas with 2 or 3 topics. I wonder if, rather than having so many people at the table, it might be practical to have fewer people at the table but the others included as work groups that are feeding into the steering committee. It is really hard when there are too many people around the table to get everything done you need to do. Do you have thoughts about that?

Paula Condol: I didn't write the bill. I have been a part of other legislative task forces and my experience is that people fall off and you would have a smaller group. I'm supportive of however we can get this going to get it done. We'd be happy be on it and to lead it if that is what is decided.

Shawn Bowman (29:05-32:05) See attachment #6 for testimony in favor of the bill.

Senator Piepkorn: What kind of preparation, education, and training do you as a religious community get in counseling victims of sexual abuse?

Shawn Bowman: Honestly, not enough. When I had that family come into the church I was a rookie and I started hearing the testimony of what had happened with this family and I instantly went to people of the religious community that were profession councilors. I got books. I sought out professional help to better bring the relief to a hurting soul that was living in the dungeon of shame and guilt. What I found is that the more I dug into this, the more I could see signs on people. When people would come into my office and I spent a little time with them, I would see certain things in people. I would stop and ask them if they were sexually abused as a small child and they would break out in tears. I feel like the questions that we see proposed and the way that they give the teachers and other places that would

deal with children the resources to help children understand that it is their body and that no one has a right to touch it would be a major help. I think churches need that same type of assistance. I would like to see it in the faith community as well as the private and public education. (34:40)

Chair J. Lee: (Commented on the need for pastoral members of the community to be trained in Seminary on this subject.)

Shawn Bowman: On of the things that this committee is probably going to have to look at is that the Child Advocacy Group is far too small. They need to be able to put into the hands of schools, churches, and other places that work with children the tools to help these little children. I would hope this committee would give places like Child Advocacy Center the authority and the ability to get this information out and to start helping the most vulnerable and innocent.

Chair J. Lee: No further testimony. **Closed the hearing on SB 2342.**

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2342
1/30/2017
Job Number 27588

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Mame Blum

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, and to provide a report to the legislative management.

Minutes:

No Attachments.

Chair J. Lee: Reopened the public hearing on SB 2342.

Anna Frissell, Executive Director, Red River Children's Advocacy Center (RRCAC): I have a few remarks on the prevention task force. About three years ago, we started working on a prevention task force in Cass and Clay Counties. We were putting together a prevention campaign for those two communities. CACs do the intervention work; we intervene in child sexual abuse. In Cass County we saw 512 cases last year; across the state it was 2,567 cases. Our goal is to stop child sexual abuse in a couple generations, to make it as taboo as cannibalism. It is a slow climb, getting a collaborative effort, and the Task Force is a remarkable step. This task force is an opportunity to start those conversations; hook it into other endeavors in the state where it will prosper and move forward. This bill supports that.

Chair J. Lee: Would you mention all parties involved in those discussions?

Ms. Frissell: Including Sen. Lee, Sen. Mattern, and Rep. Hogan as well as the superintendents of all the school districts in our area. We have participation from business world, education, faith community, and medical. It's a large task force, and we're trying to focus energy on how to stop this. I think the AG's office is a great place to put this task force.

Senator Kreun: In this collaborative effort, how do we get everybody involved in this? I don't think the schools can do it themselves.

Ms. Frissell: One of the earliest phases of the campaign is aimed at every adult, so they can identify abuse and know what to do. The strategy is to train trainers from all different walks of life. We trained 35 people last summer in our first session. Most of those people were social workers and volunteers. From there we can get out into the schools. Kids need to be armed with knowledge, Red Light Green Light and Darkness to Light are great programs, but we also need to arm adults. That begins the process of getting to every corner.

Chair J. Lee: (7:00-8:30) Told a behavioral task force story.

Ms. Frissell: We have statewide organizations that will be able to look at strategies for different areas; Indian reservations, rural, cities.

Senator Anderson: Who convene the group you had in Fargo?

Ms. Frissell: The steering committee is made up of Dr. Steve Wunderlich, Chip Ammerman, Pat Trainer, and myself.

Senator Anderson: The 4 of you put it together, then asked other people to come. Who will be the convener of this thing? The only mention of Attorney General is a representative of law enforcement appointed by the AG; we don't have the AG's office unless we add it in there.

Chair J. Lee: I'd like to visit with the Ag's office about that. That seems to be the logical place. We don't have a tribal rep on this list, we've already got a lot of people, we just did this different bill, I'd like to pair this down to a steering committee. I'm hopeful we might be able to do something here. There's got to be a smaller group that collates the info and distribute it. Do you see the merit of having a steering committee?

Ms. Frissell: Task forces in state agencies have a tendency to be larger groups. Input from larger groups, that's a hurdle for state agencies. If it included that the AG could organize, I think that's a good opportunity for a discussion, should they start with a core group or bring everybody to the table for purpose of the task force.

Chair J. Lee: I've asked the AG to send someone down who might be a designee, give them a heads up, see if he or she has any thoughts.

Senator Heckaman: When I started looking at this this morning; a, b, c, d, all are 2 members. If they could have that core group, one meeting all the law enforcement people meet, the next meeting daycare people, start with different groups and work from there. I think we did a good job honing down other bill.

Chair J. Lee: I'll chat with AG office, and see if they can give us a little thought, maybe DHS has some thoughts.

Ms. Frissell: I can see the value in letting the AG organize it.

Chair J. Lee: They could have topics that would include maybe age bans, or groups, law enforcement, early childhood development, any thoughts what kinds of things to have as broad topics to focus on with those people who are committed to that kind of thing.

Ms. Frissell: I'll send you the strategic position we prepared for our campaign. It has some pillars. I know when the task force was in front of you, the pastor that spoke heard her speak that might be a valuable bill for the task force to consider.

Chair J. Lee: Closed the hearing on SB 2342.

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2342
2/6/2017
Job Number 27925

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Maura Gillum

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, and to provide a report to the legislative management.

Minutes:

1 Attachment

Senator Heckaman: This is the one with the large group, that we're trying to pare down.

Chair J. Lee: I would like to see the CACs be in a leadership role here. If we could pull the task force down to 6 or few people who are responsible for driving the train, then we could have work groups working on other stuff. Who do we think would be the logical ones? In the first 4 bullets we've got 8 people. Listed the rest of the bullet points e-k. (Please see the bill, section 1 part 2)

Senator Piepkorn: I thought we agreed that 2 a, b, c, and d were one too many members. We want to pare that down.

Chair J. Lee: I think the work groups would include members of the public.

Senator Kreun: Looking at first 4, would it be appropriate to have a public member appointed to represent a Senate or House member and reduce the Senate or House members.

Chair J. Lee: I would be less likely to want a public member to represent an elected official.

Senator Kreun: I'm just trying to lighten the load of some of these elected officials.

Chair J. Lee: On the behavioral health bill, there has been such a focused effort on being bipartisan that it hasn't mattered; we could say one from the House and one from the Senate, one from the majority party, one from the Minority party. That would eliminate 6 of the 8. But then it's really important to have CAC person involved. Perhaps Anna Frissell could be involved, since she's an attorney as well. Paula Condol represents all the facilities throughout the state and she is in Bismarck. Important to include them. They have a plan already on how to prevent sexual abuse, I think they need to be a leader in this.

Senator Kreun: In that plan what are the 3-4 major components? So we can break this out into 3-4 components again. Have them study simultaneously but not necessarily all together at the same time, that way they can bring information back to the larger group again. We have 16 right now, it's too many.

Chair J. Lee: Someplace she said to us their plan. We might need to leave it till this afternoon.

Senator Heckaman: Does this one have a fiscal note? No? Maybe we could have Paula or someone involved with the CAC's come up with a list of 4-5 people that would head the task force. Parts 3 and 4 there's probably enough in here to get them going on it, it's just the rest of the make-up we don't have.

Chair J. Lee: I'll send an email to them and see if they have recommendations, maybe we can talk about it tomorrow. I wonder if it should be somebody from DPI Amy Copas' group, school administrators have a representation there, they could be part of the work group.

Senator Piepkorn: I see e,f, and g are all suggestions for people from the DHS maybe they can be consolidated somehow.

Chair J. Lee: F is a representative that's appointed by the DHS director, "an agency that leads the collaboration of the investigation" that's probably the CAC. The next is involved in the prevention of child abuse, you can't have a proper name in a bill, so they aren't members of the DHS, but they would be appointed by DHS.

Senator Heckaman: I would recommend to have them come up with a list of 5 people for the task force, so votes won't be even.
Email from Anna Frissell was provided after the hearing for committee's reference.

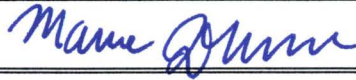
2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2342
2/13/2017
Job Number 28256

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, and to provide a report to the legislative management.

Minutes:

Attachment 1

Chair J. Lee: Brought the meeting to order for committee work on 2342, all members were present. Please reference bill and attachment 1.

Senator Piepkorn: Visiting with AG office are you saying they don't have anybody to help with this?

Chair J. Lee: They have the potential to lose 16 staff members and they don't have anybody who could be the lead, the point person on this. John Meyers, is on the board of Children's Advocacy Center, he might be a logical guy to be involved in it. In addition, the Director of the Children's Advocacy Center. Those others wouldn't be identified with proper nouns but in other ways. Let's take a look here. We first talked on page one, we have 8 people in a, b, c and d and that seems a little heavy. As far as members of the public are concerned, everyone is a member of the public in one way or another. Let's just talk about those top four. Should we start with cutting out members of the public?

Senator Kreun: I would think that's a good start, also if a legislator could bring some one with them, if they feel someone's special they can invite them as their liaison. I think we could eliminate that public portion on there.

Chair J. Lee: Let's think about that.

V-Chair Larsen: Can't we have legislative management appoint somebody, just like I'm appointed from legislative management on the Child Advocacy Board. So let them decide how many people they need on this task force.

Chair J. Lee: Even if it was one from each House and one from each party, that would be two and not four.

V-Chair Larsen: I think on that board, I'm the only legislator appointed to that.

Chair J. Lee: Let's do that as 2 options, consensus dropping 4 members, then we'll look at legislative management appointing and whether or not there might be one or two on the task force.

Senator Heckaman: I'd like to see the ability for the minority party to have a member on that taskforce.

Chair J. Lee: I would too.

Senator Heckaman: I think that would be fine.

Chair J. Lee: That will take us from 8 to 2, one from each House and one from each party.

Senator Kreun: Is there a difference between e and g? A representative of an organization involved in child abuse appointed by the director of human services. Is that an organization or is that someone from the department of human services?

Chair J. Lee: There is an organization called Prevents Child Abuse and we also have the Children's Advocacy Centers, both of which are private, non-profits who work on these issues. Frankly I'd like to see both of them on there.

V-Chair Larsen: Could we do e, g, and i, as a combination?

Chair J. Lee: Before we get g in there, can we talk about e and i? That would be the health officer and the director of the department of the human services or designee. They may be important inclusions.

Senator Heckaman: Who would the health office represent as a work group?

Chair J. Lee: They don't really do they.

Senator Heckaman: I am looking at now what the role of the health department is.

Chair J. Lee: Shall we eliminate e?

Senator Heckaman: I rather have somebody from the AG's office and somebody from human services, then the health officer. I don't know if we need that individual. I mean we could have them call the health department if they need consultation.

Chair J. Lee: I'm going to cross off i, and we would still have e.

Senator Heckaman: When I look at f and j, they're a little different, but in some ways they are all looking at investigations, prosecution, attorney general. If we just have someone appointed by the Attorney General's Office or the Attorney General or designee, that may cover that area and they could invite those people in too. I like f, because those are all the

things that you are going to do but it is also part of the role of the AG's office. Is there a way we could combine f and j at all or just leave those separate?

Chair J. Lee: I wonder if the intent of f isn't the Children's Advocacy Centers because they do investigate. Maybe we could figure out a better way to word this but they also treat. Whereas j is law enforcement, which I don't see as the same.

Senator Heckaman: No, there not exactly the same but when I look at law enforcement. I don't know.

Senator Kreun: In that line of thought, isn't the person who is doing the investigation in law enforcement?

Chair J. Lee: Not the CAC because they are doing forensic interviews with these children which can be used as part of the investigation but they are not investigating the perpetrator.

Senator Clemens: I would prefer leaving j in there because I think law enforcement is going to bring a perspective to this that some of the other persons probably won't.

Chair J. Lee: They're the ones that would be following up on the prosecution, well, no they're not.

Senator Clemens: I guess if they're law enforcement they are out in the field and really seeing what is going on out there.

Chair J. Lee: Let's leave law enforcement in right now, that would be j,

Senator Heckaman: I think we need f in there then.

Senator Kreun: What about k and h, can they be combined?

Chair J. Lee: I don't know that we need the representative from North Dakota United, I think that one could go.

Senator Heckaman: I think that would be okay right now. They can be contacted when the task force works on something where they would have input they could be invited.

V-Chair Larsen: The superintendent would appoint the expertise whether they be a teacher or a school psychologist or whoever's leading the charge with that on the education field. I would agree with retaining h, for the public instructions.

Chair J. Lee: Let's just count up here. We would instead of a and b, we would replace with just 2. We would keep e, which would be someone from Child Protective Services, and then f, would be like the Children's Advocacy Center. Then there is this, prevent child abuse group. Then DPI, 7 would be law enforcement. We had an amendment that asked for a faith community representative also.

Senator Heckaman: I think I would not put that in there right now they can be contacted.

Senator Piepkorn: In addition to having these other positions, I am sure that many of these people would be involved in the faith community.

Chair J. Lee: There is no one representative of the faith community.

V-Chair Larsen: There's also no tribal representation

Chair J. Lee: We should have a tribal member, appointed by the Indian Affairs Commissioner.

Senator Heckaman: Would you run them by me again, who we have?

Chair J. Lee: Instead of a,b,c &d we would have two. One from each house, and party. Then we would include with e, the department of human services or designee that would become c and we would keep f, and then g, that would be prevent child abuse and then superintendent, tribal member, and law enforcement. I get 8.

V-Chair Larsen: I think the old letter f, they should be running the show with it if that is the advocacy center and then the ones that have the expertise in it.

Senator Kreun: 8 is not too bad.

Senator Heckaman: When you get down to the 2nd page, on line 5 it says, the task force shall elect a presiding officer. We don't have to worry about who would be in charge. We would probably have to have the department human's services organize the 1st meeting.

Chair J. Lee: Maybe we should amend 2 on page, 2 to say that the group would originally be convened by the department of human services and at that time, which shall elect a presiding officer.

Senator Piepkorn: On page 2, number 3 part a, I am wondering about a starting point. You have to have some kind of a point person here. The task force shall gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state. You need to have somebody with connections, a base from which to operate.

Chair J. Lee: There is data from law enforcement and from the Child Protective Services and from the Children's Advocacy Center on that. That should be some good data and anybody else who has additional information. Law enforcement is an important part too. Everybody comfortable with a, b, c then 4, there already is some age appropriate curriculum available so they don't have to develop something. It's important to have somebody from DPI in there but how much do we load on into 2 personal development days.

V-Chair Larsen: Was there discussion about not ending at grade 5, but going through high school?

Senator Heckaman: I think its ok the way it reads. It says, recommendations may include, they can have other recommendations besides these two.

Chair J. Lee: In Representative Santrom's testimony he had suggested, including through high school and he wanted to add three additional members but we have already moved that one passed.

Senator Kreun: In the other bill we gave the opportunity for those school districts to utilize some of that other training that they had, we gave them flexibility in that area. It isn't going to be that they don't have the capability of bringing forth some of this training available in the high school area. If the school districts so desire.

Chair J. Lee: There is from more than one source curriculum available because these entities we talked about earlier have access to that.

Senator Kreun: I don't think this is out of character. My concern is always we put so much extra work on to these people that they forget what their job is, so we have to teach once in a while too.

Chair J. Lee: We had the DPI, Human Services, State Health Officer, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Indian Affairs Commission, and Protection and Advocacy.

Senator Heckaman: Do we need Protection and Advocacy on here? Let's not right now.

Chair J. Lee: Number four, I would be willing discuss having it go higher than grade 5 if you wanted to have that.

V-Chair Larsen: I wouldn't mind having K-12. When I look at this piece, number 3, letter a and letter c, it says to gather information concerning sexual abuse and then goals for a state policy that would prevent sexual abuse. I know in this area we don't question the idea of sexual confusion and when you get into the 7th and 8th grade, which I'm researching. If sexual confusion equals sexual abuse or gender identity, we don't know that. We're almost attacked to dare question that and it is not even safe to question that. So hopefully this study will at least question that.

Chair J. Lee: If we include the gender identity we are going to get heat in passing the bill and I don't want to jeopardize that. I think it needs to be part of the study though.

V-Chair Larsen: That's what I am talking about. I don't want to bring light to it but I would hope someone on the taskforce would say, is there something to that early sexual awareness, is that because of sexual abuse? There are people and psychologists studying that and saying, why is this percentage of people identifying like this and by the way they have had these sexual abuse problems.

Chair J. Lee: Anything else to include on that number four?

Senator Piepkorn: How does this get organized? We've got the recommended members of this task force and so this is out of our hands once the bill is passed. How does it start?

Chair J. Lee: We called for on page 2, line 5 that the department of human services shall convene a task force, that's how that will start. Do we need to say, will provide services to the committee? Check to see if it's the appropriate way to do that.

Senator Anderson: They'll figure that out.

Chair J. Lee: We should have something to look at maybe tomorrow.

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2342
2/21/2017
Job Number 28529

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Jane Bellemey for Marie Johnson

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, and to provide a report to the legislative management.

Minutes:

1 Attachment

(0:00:00-0:02:20) All Senators present. Committee organized itself.

(0:02:21-0:04:50) Ran quickly through the proposed amendments (attachment #1), with brief discussion on a couple of areas being changed.

Senator Anderson: move to adopt amendments

V-Chair Larsen: second

V-Chair Larsen: Who is it that will invite the faith based community? Or will they just show up?

Chair J. Lee: Human services or designee will convene the task force. Because child protective services are a part of DHS that would probably make it logical.

A Roll Call Vote was taken. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. Motion passes.

Senator Anderson: move a do pass, as amended on SB 2342.

Senator Heckaman: second

A Roll Call Vote was taken. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Motion passes.

Senator Heckaman will carry.

February 21, 2017

OK
2/21/17
1 of 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2342

Page 1, line 10, remove "One member of the senate and one member of the public, appointed by the"

Page 1, remove lines 11 through 17

Page 1, line 18, replace "e." with "One member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the chairman of the legislative management. One legislator must be a member of the majority party and one legislator must be a member of the minority party;

b."

Page 1, line 18, after "The" insert "executive"

Page 1, line 18, after "services" insert a comma

Page 1, line 18, remove "a designee of"

Page 1, line 18, replace the second "director" with "executive director's designee"

Page 1, line 19, replace "f." with "c."

Page 1, line 19, replace "an agency" with "a children's advocacy center or similar organization"

Page 1, line 19, replace "leads the collaboration of" with "assists in"

Page 1, line 21, after the first "the" insert "executive"

Page 1, line 22, replace "g." with "d."

Page 1, line 23, after the first "the" insert "executive"

Page 1, line 24, replace "h." with "e."

Page 1, line 24, after "instruction" insert a comma

Page 1, line 24, replace "a designee of the superintendent" with "the superintendent's designee"

Page 2, remove line 1

Page 2, line 2, replace "j." with "f."

Page 2, remove line 3

Page 2, line 4, replace "Dakota united" with:

"g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee"

Page 2, line 5, replace "2." with "3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee, shall convene the task force."

Page 2, line 7, replace "3." with "4."

Page 2, line 14, replace "4." with "5."

Renumber accordingly

OK
2/21/17
2022

Date: 2/21 2017

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2342

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 17.0954.01002

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
- Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
- As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
- Place on Consent Calendar
- Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Sen. Anderson Seconded By Sen. Larsen

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee (Chairman)	X		Senator Joan Heckaman	X	
Senator Oley Larsen (Vice-Chair)	X		Senator Merrill Piepkorn	X	
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	X				
Senator David A. Clemens	X				
Senator Curt Kreun	X				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 3/1 2017

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2342

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

- Recommendation:
- Adopt Amendment
 - Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 - As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 - Place on Consent Calendar
- Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Anderson Seconded By Heckaman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee (Chairman)	X		Senator Joan Heckaman	X	
Senator Oley Larsen (Vice-Chair)	X		Senator Merrill Piepkorn	X	
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	X				
Senator David A. Clemens	X				
Senator Curt Kreun	X				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Heckaman

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2342: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2342 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 10, remove "One member of the senate and one member of the public, appointed by the"

Page 1, remove lines 11 through 17

Page 1, line 18, replace "e." with "One member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the chairman of the legislative management. One legislator must be a member of the majority party and one legislator must be a member of the minority party;

b."

Page 1, line 18, after "The" insert "executive"

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Page 1, line 18, remove "a designee of"

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Page 1, line 19, replace "leads the collaboration of" with "assists in"

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Page 2, line 2, replace "j." with "f."

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Page 2, line 7, replace "3." with "4."

Page 2, line 14, replace "4." with "5."

Renumber accordingly

2017 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2342

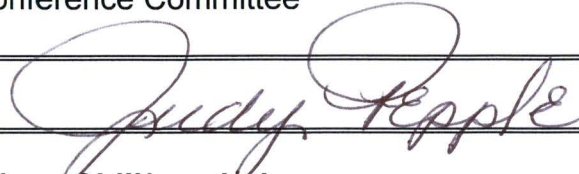
2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2342
3/15/2017
29230

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide a report to the legislative management.

Minutes:

1, 2, 3

Chairman Weisz: Called the committee to order.
Opened the hearing on SB 2342.

Senator John Grabinger
(Attachment 1)

2:05

Senator Bernie Satrom
(Attachment 2)

7:40

Chairman Weisz: Are there any questions from the committee?

Representative McWilliams: Do we have any data that shows if this is a growing or stable problem in our state?

Sen. Satrom: I don't know, but I know we do have a problem. My wife does a Bible study in the jail and she comes home with stories almost every night. The people are amazingly hurting. I hope we can protect some of these children. Hurt people hurt people.

Vice Chairman Rohr: I know you are raising the age to grade 12 and I think that is good, but it is not just adults abusing children, but sometimes teenagers abusing younger ones. They need education about that too.

Sen. Satrom: I know and I don't have all the answers, but I hope we can get all the smart people in the same room and come up with some ways to do what is best. I don't know how to do that, but I think we should have the discussion.

Chairman Weisz: Is there further testimony in support of SB 2342?
10:23

Anna Frissell, Exe. Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center
(Attachment 3)

Chairman Weisz: Are there any questions from the committee?

17:17

Chairman Weisz: You mentioned that adults are 30% more likely to have other issues, but isn't it also more likely that they will be an offender if they were abused?

A Fissell: There is some research that certainly supports that. There is also research that tells us that with intervention that can be stopped. Yes, there is more of a likelihood to model the behavior and act inappropriately. That is a piece of that education. Getting in there in the early years with the correct behavior. I did want to mention to Vice Chairman Rohr's question, I wonder if the K-12 amendment was K – 12th grade, not through 12 years old.

Representative P. Anderson: Can you tell us how many of the abusers are family members?

A Fissell: I can give you the exact percentage. I don't have that with me, but I can send that to you. I can tell you it is a high number. It is over 35%. That is biological family members. If you extend that to immediate family which includes step parents, siblings, grandparents, and others that live in the household and the number escalates over 50%. It is not strangers. I have been at the children's advocacy center for 10 years and I have only seen 2 cases of it being strangers. The offenders work very hard to build relationships to gain their trust and then get access to them. It is usually someone that you trust and you love. That is what makes it so heartbreaking. I think that every time we hear about this it should disgust us as badly as eating human flesh.

Vice Chairman Rohr: There is a gap where children rape children. For some of those children it is learned behavior and they are sometimes labeled as victims. Do you think this task force should address that too?

A Fissell: I think this is a rare opportunity to look at prevention. We should look at all of the information available on this task force.

Chairman Weisz: Further questions?

Chairman Weisz: Further support?

Chairman Weisz: Is there any testimony in opposition to SB 2342?
Seeing none, we will close the hearing on SB 2342.

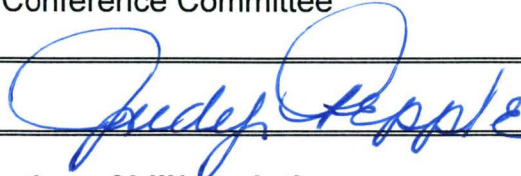
2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2342
3/20/2017
29437

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide for the creation of a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide a report to the legislative management.

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Called the committee to order.
Opened the discussion

Chairman Weisz: There is a suggested amendment by Rep. Satrom to expand the age from prekindergarten through grade 12.

Representative P. Anderson: amendment
Representative D. Anderson: second

Chairman Weisz: voice vote to accept the amendment.

Voice vote to accept the amendment carried.

Representative Devlin: I struggle with section A. One member of the senate and one member of the house because since a member of the majority party could be left out in either the house or the senate could be left out under that scenario. I would much rather have had it be one member appointed by the majority party in each of those and one legislator appointed from either chamber by the minority. There would then be 3 legislators. One from the majority party in the house, one from the majority party in the senate and one member of the minority party from either the house or the senate.

Chairman Weisz: Is that a motion?

Representative Devlin: The wording might be a little strange right there, but yes I would move that we make that change.

Chairman Weisz: Ok, does everyone understand? Well, there is a motion, is there a second?

Representative Skroch: I second it.

Chairman Weisz: Ok now if you look on line 10 on page 1 where it talks about one member of the senate and one member of the house appointed by the chairman. It says one must be a majority and one a minority. Under the amendment it would say one member from the house, one member from the senate both majority party and then one member from either chamber that is the minority party. That would be the change. It would be one more member and the majority leader would get to choose there's and the minority leader could choose there's.

Chairman Weisz: Does everyone understand the amendment?

Voice vote to accept the amendment?

Voice vote carried.

Representative Porter: I would like to have a bit of discussion about the verbiage on line 8. We are allowing this committee to draft legislation and make those recommendations and I am not extremely comfortable with that since it is not a legislative management committee. I guess I wouldn't mind if they reported to the interim Human Services committee or reported to legislative management.

Chairman Weisz: We could say human services committee, but it could end up reporting to a committee that doesn't exist.

Chairman Weisz: Would you like to make that a motion?

Representative Porter: I would.

Chairman Weisz: Is there a second?

Representative Seibel: second

Chairman Weisz: So does the committee understand?

Representative Schneider: I do have a question about how that is worded. I am fine with the overall amendment, but I would like them to develop recommendations. They don't have to develop legislation or even recommendations for legislation, but in their report we want them to at least be.

Chairman Weisz: I think the wording would say develop recommendations to legislative management to reduce child sexual abuse.

Representative Schneider: That sounds good.

Chairman Weisz: Isn't that what we are trying to say, Representative Porter?

Representative Porter: It is.

Representative Seibel: I think subsection 5 on page 2 kind of spells that out.

Chairman Weisz: Everyone understands the amendment. On page 1 it would just say develop recommendations to legislative management. You would eliminate "for legislation"

Then on page 2 it says recommendations may include proposals for statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation, etc. Any further discussion on the amendment?

Chairman Weisz: voice vote for amendment
Motion carried.

Chairman Weisz: further amendments?

Representative McWilliams: Section 5 concerns me. Section 5 line 17 addressing sexual abuse in children that may include age appropriate curriculum. I am very leery of schools teaching any sort of curriculum regarding sexual abuse or sexuality or sex education and they are not coming from the parents. Having a handbook or other things I am fine with, but I don't approve of age appropriate curriculum being in a bill. I would very much like to strike that language.

Chairman Weisz: Ok, do you want to make that a motion?

Representative McWilliams: I move that we strike age appropriate curriculum.

Chairman Weisz: Eliminating the curriculum in the schools.

Representative Skroch: Second

Chairman Weisz: Hopefully it is to teach the children to know what to watch for or report.

Representative McWilliams: I struggle with age appropriate. Who is it age appropriate to? The child, the teacher or who? By teaching them what to look out for they have to first know what it is. That is something I am just not comfortable with as a parent.

Chairman Weisz: I will start on line 16. It will say state and local governments that are adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children, training for school personnel on child sexual abuse. "which may include age appropriate curriculum for students in prekindergarten through grade 12" is removed.

Representative Skroch: It involves the parents and guardians. But if you start talking to children at too young an age about certain sexual activities you can actually create obsessions with those sexual activities. If we don't have any control over what is being provided by the school district, I would be concerned about that. Children are ready for the education when they start asking and I think the parents are the best to do that.

Chairman Weisz: Yes, but sometimes it is the parents that are the abusers. Then what? Unfortunately, that is the case too often. Any further discussion? If not, the clerk will call the roll on the motion.

Roll call vote taken on the amendment to SB 2342 Yes 5 No 9 Absent 0
Motion failed.

Chairman Weisz: it is certainly an issue. I can understand why it would raise some concerns. Further discussion on SB 2342? Any further amendment.

Representative Devlin: Not an amendment, but just a discussion point that there would like to have the chairman's assurance that Aaron's law will turn out better than Marcy's law when we get to that stage.

Chairman Weisz: If there are no further amendments, I will entertain a motion.

Representative P. Anderson: I move a do pass as amended on SB 2342.

Representative D. Anderson: second

Chairman Weisz: Is there further discussion on the bill? Seeing none, the clerk will call the roll for a do pass as amended on SB 2342.

Roll call vote taken Yes 12 No 2 Absent 0

Chairman Weisz: Motion carried. Do I have a volunteer to carry this one?

Representative D. Anderson will carry it.

Committee adjourned.

3/20/17 DB

17.0954.02002
Title.03000

Adopted by the Human Services Committee

March 20, 2017

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2342

Page 1, line 8, remove "for legislation"

Page 1, line 10, replace "and" with "appointed by the majority leader of the senate, "

Page 1, line 11, remove "chairman of the legislative management. One legislator must be"

Page 1, remove line 12

Page 1, line 13, replace "minority party" with "majority leader of the house of representatives,
and one member of the minority party appointed by the minority leaders of the senate
and house of representatives"

Page 2, line 18, replace "five" with "twelve"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/30/17
 Roll Call/Vote #: 1

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2342

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: page 5 change age to "prekindergarten through grade 12"

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. P. Anderson Seconded By Rep. D. Anderson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz			Rep. P. Anderson		
Vice Chairman Rohr			Rep. Schneider		
Rep. B. Anderson					
Rep. D. Anderson					
Rep. Damschen					
Rep. Devlin					
Rep. Kiefert					
Rep. McWilliams					
Rep. Porter					
Rep. Seibel					
Rep. Skroch					
Rep. Westlind					

Vote to adopt amendment. Motion carried

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 3/20/17
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2342

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: SEE below

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Devlin Seconded By Rep. Skroch

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz			Rep. P. Anderson		
Vice Chairman Rohr			Rep. Schneider		
Rep. B. Anderson					
Rep. D. Anderson					
Rep. Damschen					
Rep. Devlin					
Rep. Kiefert					
Rep. McWilliams					
Rep. Porter					
Rep. Seibel					
Rep. Skroch					
Rep. Westlind					

Handwritten notes in table:
 "voice to adopt amendment" (written vertically across the first 10 rows)
 "motion carried" (written diagonally across the bottom 5 rows)

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:
Page 10 Line 1 change to 1 member of majority party from the house, 1 member of majority party from the senate and one member of the minority party from either the house or senate

Date: 3/30/13
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2342

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Seibel

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz			Rep. P. Anderson		
Vice Chairman Rohr			Rep. Schneider		
Rep. B. Anderson					
Rep. D. Anderson					
Rep. Damschen					
Rep. Devlin					
Rep. Kiefert					
Rep. McWilliams					
Rep. Porter					
Rep. Seibel					
Rep. Skroch					
Rep. Westlind					

Motion to adopt amendment carried in a voice vote!

Total (Yes) _____ No _____
 Absent _____
 Floor Assignment _____

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

On page 1 it would just say "develop recommendations to legislative management." It would eliminate "for legislation". Then on page 2 it says "recommendations may include proposals for statutory changes and methods" etc

Date: 3/20/17
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3B2342

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: On line 16 of Section 5 end after training for school personnel on child sexual abuse.

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. McWilliams Seconded By Rep. Skroch

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. P. Anderson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice Chairman Rohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Rep. Schneider		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. B. Anderson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rep. D. Anderson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rep. Damschen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Rep. Devlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Rep. Kiefert		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rep. McWilliams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Rep. Porter		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rep. Seibel		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rep. Skroch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Rep. Westlind		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Total (Yes) 5 No 9

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Motion failed

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

Date: 3/30/17
 Roll Call Vote #: 5

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. S.B. 2342

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. P. Anderson Seconded By Rep. D. Anderson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz	✓		Rep. P. Anderson	✓	
Vice Chairman Rohr	✓		Rep. Schneider	✓	
Rep. B. Anderson	✓				
Rep. D. Anderson	✓				
Rep. Damschen	✓				
Rep. Devlin	✓				
Rep. Kiefert	✓				
Rep. McWilliams		✓			
Rep. Porter	✓				
Rep. Seibel	✓				
Rep. Skroch		✓			
Rep. Westlind	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 2

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rep. D. Anderson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2342, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2342
was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 8, remove "for legislation"

Page 1, line 10, replace "and" with "appointed by the majority leader of the senate, "

Page 1, line 11, remove "chairman of the legislative management. One legislator must be"

Page 1, remove line 12

Page 1, line 13, replace "minority party" with "majority leader of the house of representatives,
and one member of the minority party appointed by the minority leaders of the
senate and house of representatives"

Page 2, line 18, replace "five" with "twelve"

Re-number accordingly

2017 TESTIMONY

SB 2342

Good morning Madame Chair and fellow colleagues, I'm Sen. John Grabinger and represent district twelve which is the greater part of Jamestown. I come before you today in support of sb2342. This bill is an effort to expand the discussion regarding child sexual abuse. We all know this is a serious problem that seems to show it's ugliness time and time again. This bill if passed simply puts together the parties that should be able to offer some in depth insight into this problem and possibly offer a few suggestions to do more to combat it. With me today is my rep. from district twelve who suggested that I sponsor this bill. I must say, after reading it, I did not hesitate to move it forward. Their clearly may be more or different members proposed for such a task force, but that can be brought forward through the process and amended in if needed. Folks, we didn't plan this, but through peer coincidence, today happens to be Keeping Kids Safe from abuse day in ND. We legislators all received an e-mail suggesting we wear blue today in remembrance of this. In closing and before I ask you to give me a pass and save any real difficult questions for my representative who has done more background on this matter than I. I will share one final thought. We have

2342

#1

1/30

seen the numbers for the severity of this problem, not only state wide, but also the extreme seriousness of this on our reservations. I've been told that 3 out of every 5 women on one reservation in our state has faced child sexual abuse at one time or another. We must do more if we can and we must do it for all of our children. Thank you for your time.

Madame Chairwoman and members of the committee, I am here to testify in support of SB2342. My name is Bernie Satrom and I am a State Representative from District 12.

Two weeks ago I got a call from a constituent who is also a pastor and friend of mine who recommended that I submit a bill to help curb sexual abuse in children.

I went to Legislative Council and Dustin drafted a bill but not in time for the House deadline. Senator Grabinger graciously agreed to submit it to the senate for introduction.

Laws regarding sexual abuse prevention are presently in place in all but 7 states. This effort has been spear headed by Erin Merryn from Illinois and I wanted to read just a paragraph from the written testimony she provided to me.

As a child I was taught yearly in school tornado drills, bus drills stranger danger, DARE, bully intervention, internet safety, look both ways when you cross the street... I could go on and on. I knew not to go look for the lost puppy, I knew how to run out of a burning building and I graduated from DARE knowing the 8 ways of how to say NO to drugs. But where were the 8 ways on how to get away and tell today? They never came I my childhood so when I woke up as a 6 year old at an overnight at my best friends house to her uncle molesting me I didn't know how to tell. When he continued to molest me and eventually raped me at the age of 7 years old as I kept it a secret. This man threatened me that he would come get me if I told anyone. From ages 6 to 8 1/2 . I continued to be molested and raped by him.

It goes on.... I have included a copy of her full testimony for your review.

This bill calls for a task force to research the problem and come up with recommendations on how we can make North Dakota a safer place to live.

Here are some bullet points

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused by 18, these kids are sitting in our classrooms often being disruptive due to abuse. You have probably heard. Hurt People Hurt People. I wonder how many of how many of these have continued to act out and populate our correctional facilities?

This is not about Sex Ed. This is about teaching kids personal Body safety. Protecting them from Sexual abuse.

Because of the Every Child Succeeds act passed in Dec 2015 federal funds become available starting in the 2017 2018 year.

While many parent should be having this conversation so many don't. Next to the home the school is the next place children spend most of their time.

In many states this amounts to an hour out of the school year. An hour which can make the difference between a child telling today or suffering through many more years of abuse.

Many states have developed curriculum so the proposed task force could have a wealth of input to supplement their own ideas. Many states allow parents to opt out if they desire to.

I have several friendly amendments I would like you to consider. One is changing the study from K through 5th grade to K through High School. The second is to add 3 additional members. Two members from the religious community and one from a child advocacy group. By including members of the religious community I think we could have more buy in from parents as well as a tool that parochial schools might want to adopt for use in their facilities. I stand for any questions.

My name is Erin Merryn and I am from Chicago. I am the founder of Erin's Law. A law that requires personal body safety to be taught in public schools to children once a year. I have successfully traveled to 16 state capitals testifying on Erin's law before lawmakers since 2010. To date 28 states now have Erin's Law.

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My saving grace came at 8 ½ when I learned we were moving only to find out I was getting that much closer to my next perpetrator this time a family member. From 11-13 years old my older teenage cousin molested me. He threatened me every time that this was our secret, no one would believe me, and I would destroy our family if I told. The only message I was getting as a child was from the men hurting me and that came from threats to silence me. Had I been taught to speak up and not keep this a secret, or what a safe touch and unsafe touch is, a safe secret and an unsafe secret, I feel I would have spoken up from the start instead of being abused for years as a child. It is the lesson we fail to teach our children across this world and I have made it my mission for every child to be empowered with the voice I never had as a kid. I broke my silence after my sister came to me and

Do right by the children. Give that 7 year old child that is being sexually abused tonight the voice to tell someone tomorrow instead of continuing to be sexually abused and raped for years and waiting until she is in drug rehab at 30 years old finally coming to terms with what happened to her through years of her childhood. Give children the voice I never had as a child. Help me pass Erin's Law for the children of North Dakota. Make it the 29th state.

In my home state of Illinois a man was just sentenced to 40 years in prison for raping a little girl for three years. The day she learned Erin's Law she reported it to her teacher immediately.

Please help me save children going to bed tonight with the same secret I did.
Thank You,
Erin Merryn

17.0954.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Satrom
January 27, 2017

SB 2342
#4
1/30

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2342

Page 2, line 2, remove "and"

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- m. One member of the faith community, appointed by the house minority leader; and
- n. A superintendent of a school district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction"

Page 2, line 18, replace "five" with "twelve"

Renumber accordingly

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Paula Condol. I am the Director for the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota and the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2342.

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota are committed to improving the response to and prevention of child abuse. Each of the Children's Advocacy Centers across the state works with team members from social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities to provide evidence based services to help the child and family heal and to increase successful prosecutions. We also work with schools, the faith communities, organizations, clubs and communities in the prevention of child abuse. In the last 5 years alone ND Children's Advocacy Centers provided prevention services to over 10,000 individuals. The children's advocacy center model is seen as the gold standard response to child abuse across the country at over 800 Children's Advocacy Centers, in all 50 states. Including three Children's Advocacy Centers in ND covering five regionally placed sites; one in Bismarck, Dickinson, Minot, Fargo and Grand Forks.

It is estimated there are 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the US and research tells us that 60% of victims never tell^{1,2}. Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children aged 17 and under.^{3,4}

Child abuse also happens in North Dakota. In 2016 Children's Advocacy Centers in ND served 2567 people and provided 25,411 services to them, this included 903 alleged victims of sexual abuse. Every year our centers see hundreds of children

Attachment #5
1/30 that are sexually abused, raped and threatened. They have experienced violence and at times been exploited through pornography and trafficking and it is time that we do something as a state to address this. Senate Bill 2342 provides for a much needed creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.

Children who are sexually abused are at significantly greater risk for a wide variety of mental health and health problems including PTSD, anxiety, depression and suicide⁶. They're more likely to have substance abuse issues⁵, delinquency⁶, and academic difficulties⁹. They are at increased risk for teen pregnancy⁷, other sexual behavior problems⁸ and eating disorders¹⁰. Not only does child sexual abuse affect children, often adults who were abused as children carry this pain with them for a lifetime. Adults with a history of child sexual abuse are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, stroke or hypertension.¹¹ The CDC has recently estimated the lifetime cost of child abuse to be approximately \$210,012 per victim¹².

Child sexual abuse is a serious problem; it is everyone's problem; and something needs to be done about it. The good news is that we know that there are ways to prevent child sexual abuse and its time we do something. We need to start talking about how we as adults can lessen the risk of the kids around us every day and we need to be proactive. I remember a reporter asking me at the start of the Oil Boom in ND if we had seen an increase in referrals. I told her to come back and talk to me in 2 years. Because we know that all forms of abuse increase in correlation to stress. Stress like poverty and joblessness, but also anytime there is a large influx of population, weather related tragedies and other events that dominate the news. It is a like a bottleneck effect where stress increases to the point where it is difficult to control things like impulses. So the stress builds up and up and suddenly two years later I was back on the news talking to reporters about how our referrals had doubled and we had a 6 week wait list for a child to be interviewed and 4 month

Attache #5

1/30

wait list for counseling. Imagine if we collectively as a state could take that information and do something so in two years I won't be back here talking about the implications of events like the protests. And we can't forget the children. Research shows that children who have had body safety education are more likely to tell. I will never forget the first time I had seen prevention personally work through a child. This little 4 year old girl came into my office one day for her first therapy session and with recognition in her face, her big eyes looked up at me and said "it was you". I had not realized until moments later that I had been in her preschool classroom a couple of weeks earlier. Her mother later told me that when she got home that day she had told her that a lady at school told her that it was not okay what the daycare provider had done to her. The mother contacted social services and even though she still experienced abuse, we prevented it from happening again; to her and likely to several other kids. I run into that family now and again and I can tell you that the now young teen is doing well all because we took a moment out of our day to educate her on what to do.

Children's Advocacy Centers in ND play a critical role in ensuring the safety of abused children in our state. An integral part of this is preventing child abuse before it happens. We fully support the creation of a task force to prevent child sexual abuse in the state of North Dakota, however, we do recommend an amendment to include the Children's Advocacy Centers of ND on this task force. Not only are we primary partners in the intervention of child abuse we are also partners in the prevention of it. With the recommendation of this amendment, we recommend a Do Pass.

Madam. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions.

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 - 11 Sachs-Ericsson, N., Blazer, D., Plant, E. A., & Arnow, B. (2005). Childhood sexual and physical abuse and 1-year prevalence of medical problems in the National Comorbidity Survey. *Health Psychology*, 24, 32 - 40.
 - 12 Fang, X., Brown, D., Florence, C., Mercy, J. (2012) The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 36:2,156-165

SB2342

Good Morning. My name is Pastor Shawn Bowman. I am from Jamestown, ND. I am here to advocate for passage of bill **SB2342** which is designed to educate young people about their inherent, natural right to defend themselves against sexual exploitation. Sexual predators traffic in lies and deception. Children are too often subject to believing crafty lies and will often fall prey to submission and secrecy which serves the interests of the sexual predator. The most beneficial preventive measure against this exploitation is arming a child with simple, but effective knowledge before victimization occurs. Much like the D.A.R.E. program educates children about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, this bill intends to provide children with effective strategies for protecting their sexual innocence.

I began my career as a pastor thirteen years ago by serving Victory Lutheran Brethren Church in Jamestown. Shortly after I arrived in Jamestown I encountered a family with three young children who had been sexually abused by a relative. I scrambled to begin to educate myself about the multitude of issues facing this family. Throughout years of pastoral counseling experiences I have come to realize the frequency of childhood sexual exploitation as a source of significant struggle and chaos in adult life. People who are robbed of innocence in childhood most often carry shame and anger into adulthood that has a spill-over effect on marriage, and interpersonal relationships. This pain takes a devastating toll on personal health and well-being which affects virtually every avenue of the individual's life.

It is my hope that this committee would approve for the children of North Dakota the proper tools necessary for protecting themselves against helplessness and ignorance, so that in a time when a predator attempts to strike, the child is prepared and trained to counter that assault. This bill has been prepared in consultation with a national movement to adopt standards for teaching age-appropriate self advocacy. Children need to know the basics of safe touch, unsafe touch and safe secrets, unsafe secrets. We recognize that schools play a significant role in preparing students with fire drills, anti-bullying tactics, and many other health and safety measures. The area of personal safety has not been addressed as consistently and vigorously, to the detriment of one in four girls and one in six boys becoming victims of sexual assault before age eighteen.

Respectfully submitted; Reverend Shawn Bowman
Victory Lutheran Brethren Church
Jamestown ND

2392
#1
2/6

NDLA, S HMS - Johnson, Marne

From: Lee, Judy E.
Monday, February 06, 2017 8:52 PM
To: -Grp-NDLA Senate Human Services; NDLA, S HMS - Johnson, Marne; NDLA, Intern 02 - Arendt, Ian
Subject: FW: SB 2342

Suggestions from Anna Frissell about the task force for prevention of child sexual abuse

Senator Judy Lee
1822 Brentwood Court
West Fargo, ND 58078
home phone: 701-282-6512
e-mail: jlee@nd.gov

From: Anna Frissell [mailto:annarrcac@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Lee, Judy E. <jlee@nd.gov>
Subject: Re: SB 2342

CAUTION: This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe.

Two cents:

I wrestled with who to recommend. I believe that the sponsor of the Bill felt that the faith community should be involved and I think that the faith community will be strong leaders in the work group but at the steering committee level you are seeking people who will think "outside the box" on development and implementation of a large scale campaign.

I have six entities (their delegees) who I suggest should be included:

1. Director of North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers - Doing prevention and intervention work and subject matter expertise.
2. DHS selecting a Child Protective Services Representative - CPS has jurisdiction over the safety of children.
3. Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota - Knowledgeable about the field of prevention and protection of ND kids.
4. Department of Public Instruction - Valuable knowledge about writing large scale curriculum and educating adults and kids and measuring results.

2342
#1
2/6

5. Department of Health - They have implemented prevention campaigns (smoking, etc....) and know how to evaluate success of large scale health initiatives.

6. Director of the Coalition to End Sexual Abuse in Cass and Clay Counties, Lisa Klabunde, wanted, Lisa is new to the position and to the prevention world but she is going to be leading the charge in our campaign and she is the future ...also, I am supervising her so I can be involved as much as you feel is important to be).

7. Corporate leader - Just thinking that from the onset this could be developed as a public/private partnership and we need to get the expertise on engaging private business for funding and implementation....

I would also suggest that the meetings be facilitated by a strategist....

Anna Frissell
Executive Director
Red River Children's Advocacy Center
Serving Eastern North Dakota and Western Minnesota
701-234-4583

Children do not consent. They cooperate.

This message and its contents are confidential and meant only for the intended receiver. Please let me know if you feel that you should not have received this email so that I may follow up on why or how it went astray. Thank you.

From: "Lee, Judy E." <jlee@nd.gov>
To: Anna Frissell <annarrcac@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:32 PM
Subject: SB 2342

Anna –
We are going to discuss 2342 about child sexual abuse prevention, probably tomorrow afternoon. We think that there are too many people on the task force. We'd like to see a maximum of 5 as a steering committee, and everyone else can be involved with a work group. Would you have some suggestions about whom to include, besides you?

Senator Judy Lee
1822 Brentwood Court
West Fargo, ND 58078
Phone: 701-282-6512
Email: jlee@nd.gov

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2342

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Renumber accordingly

2/24/17

SB 2342

Attachment #1 pg 1

17.0954.#####

Sixty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SB 2342

Introduced by

Senator Grabinger

Representative Satrom

A BILL for an Act to provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide a report to the legislative management.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

**SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN -
REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNOR.**

1. During the 2017-18 interim, a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children shall gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state and develop recommendations for legislation to reduce child sexual abuse.
2. The task force consists of the following members:
 - a. ~~One member of the senate and one member of the public, appointed by the senate majority leader;~~
 - b. ~~One member of the senate and one member of the public, appointed by the senate minority leader;~~
 - c. ~~One member of the house of representatives and one member of the public, appointed by the house majority leader;~~
 - d. ~~One member of the house of representatives and one member of the public, appointed by the house minority leader;~~
 - e. One member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the legislative management. One legislator must be a member of the majority party and one legislator must be a member of the minority party;
 - b. The executive director of the department of human services or ~~a designee of the director~~executive director's designee;

2/24/17

SB 2342

/

- ~~f.c.~~ A representative of ~~an agency~~ children's advocacy center or similar organization that ~~leads the collaboration of~~ assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
- ~~g.d.~~ A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
- ~~h.e.~~ The superintendent of public instruction, or ~~a designee of the superintendent~~ the superintendent's designee;
- ~~i.~~ ~~The state health officer or a designee of the state health officer~~;
- ~~j.f.~~ A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general; and
- ~~k.~~ ~~A representative of North Dakota united, appointed by the president of North Dakota united~~
- ~~g.~~ The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee.
- ~~2.3.~~ The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.
- ~~3.4.~~ The task force shall:
- a. Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state;
 - b. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations;
 - c. Create goals for state policy that would prevent child sexual abuse; and
 - d. Submit a final report with its recommendations to the governor and the legislative management.
- ~~4.5.~~ The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include age-appropriate curriculum for students in prekindergarten through grade five; training for school personnel on child sexual abuse; educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed

2/25/17

SB 2342

#1

assistance, referral, or resource information; available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse; and emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be successful in school.

A.H. 1
SB. 2342
3-15-17

Testimony of Senator John Grabinger
March 15, 2017

Good morning Chairman Weisz and fellow colleagues,
I am Sen. John Grabinger and represent District #12,
which is the greater part of Jamestown. I come before
you today in support of SB 2342. This bill is an effort to
expand the discussion regarding child sexual abuse. We
all know this is a serious problem that seems to show its
ugliness time and time again. This bill, if passed, simply
puts together the parties that should be able to offer
some in-depth insight into this problem and possibly
offer a few suggestions to do more to combat it.

With me today is my Representative from District #12 who suggested that I sponsor this bill. I must say, after reading it, I did not hesitate to move it forward. There clearly may be more or different members who could serve on this task force, but first we must move this forward through the process and get it working for North Dakota.

Folks, we did not plan it, but through peer coincidence, the day we first proposed this bill in the Senate, it happened to be "Keeping Kids Safe from Abuse Day" in ND. The legislators all received an e-mail suggesting we wore blue on that day in remembrance of this.

In closing and before I ask you to give me a pass and save any real difficult questions for my representative who has done more background on this matter than I, I will share one final thought. We have seen the numbers for the severity of this problem, not only statewide, but also the extreme seriousness of this on our reservations. I've been told that 3 out of every 5 women on one reservation in our state has faced child sexual abuse at one time or another. We must do more if we can and we must do it for all of our children.

Thank you for your time.

A.H. 2
SB2342
3-15-17

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am here to testify in support of SB2342. My name is Bernie Satrom and I am a State Representative from District 12.

Several weeks ago I got a call from a constituent who is also a pastor and friend of mine who shared that sexual abuse is common in our community and recommended that I submit a bill to help curb sexual abuse in children.

I went to Legislative Council and Dustin drafted a bill but not in time for the House deadline. Senator Grabinger graciously agreed to submit it to the senate for introduction.

Laws regarding sexual abuse prevention are presently in place in all but 7 states. This effort has been spear headed by Erin Merryn from Illinois and I wanted to read just a paragraph from the written testimony she provided to me.

As a child I was taught yearly in school tornado drills, bus drills stranger danger, DARE, bully intervention, internet safety, look both ways when you cross the street... I could go on and on. I knew not to go look for the lost puppy, I knew how to run out of a burning building and I graduated from DARE knowing the 8 ways of how to say NO to drugs. But where were the 8 ways on how to get away and tell today? They never came I my childhood so when I woke up as a 6 year old at an overnight at my best friends house to her uncle molesting me I didn't know how to tell. When he continued to molest me and eventually raped me at the age of 7 years old as I kept it a secret. This man threatened me that he would come get me if I told anyone. From ages 6 to 8 1/2 . I continued to be molested and raped by him.

It goes on.... I have included a copy of her full testimony for your review.

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Here are some bullet points

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused by 18, these kids are sitting in our classrooms often being disruptive due to abuse. You have probably heard. Hurt People Hurt People. I wonder how many of how many of these have continued to act out their untold hurt and now populate our correctional facilities?

This is not about Sex Ed. This is about teaching kids personal Body safety. Protecting them from Sexual abuse.

Because of the Every Child Succeeds act passed in Dec 2015 federal funds become available starting in the 2017 2018 year.

While many parent should be having this conversation so many don't. Next to the home the school is the next place children spend most of their time.

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Many states have developed curriculum so the proposed task force could have a wealth of input to supplement their own ideas. Many states allow parents to opt out if they desire to.

I have a friendly amendment I would like you to consider. The amendment would entail changing the study from K through 5th grade to K through High School. I stand for any questions.

2

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told me our cousin was sexually abusing her too. Had someone come in and taught us in school not to keep this a secret it could have saved us years of abuse.

Often children are abused for years and don't come forward until they are adults because they were educated only to stay silent and afraid it was their fault. There are currently 753,000 registered sex offenders in America.

In December 2015 President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act and in that bill there is federal funding provided for every state to be used for Erin's Law. So it is no longer an unfunded mandated.

We put so much emphasis on stranger danger with kids when 93% of the time children are abused by someone they know and trust. Only 7% of the time it is that stranger we worry so much about. There are 42 million survivors of sexual abuse living in America right now. 3 million of those are children. That could fill 46 national football stadiums. Get that image in your head for a moment. These children are sitting in our classrooms everyday living in silence as their innocence is being killed and the psychological impact this is having on them as they live in this horror.

This law is common sense. I'm asking for an hour out of the school year to give children the voice I never had. Without that voice we are allowing the Jerry Sandusky's of our world to silence our children and kill their innocence. It is time we start fighting the war going on in our own backyards by empowering children with their voice and putting sex offenders out of business. I am on a mission to get this passed in all 50 states and will not stop until I do.

Do right by the children. Give that 7 year old child that is being sexually abused tonight the voice to tell someone tomorrow instead of continuing to be sexually abused and raped for years and waiting until she is in drug rehab at 30 years old finally coming to terms with what happened to her through years of her childhood. Give children the voice I never had as a child. Help me pass Erin's Law for the children of North Dakota. Make it the 29th state.

In my home state of Illinois a man was just sentenced to 40 years in prison for raping a little girl for three years. The day she learned Erin's Law she reported it to her teacher immediately.

Please help me save children going to bed tonight with the same secret I did.
Thank You,
Erin Merryn

Talking Points

1 in 4 girls. 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused by 18 these kids are sitting in our classrooms often being disruptive due to abuse.

Erin's Law is NOT sex ed. We are not teaching kids about birth control, STDs, etc. This is teaching kids Personal Body Safety. Protecting them from sexual abuse.

Erin's Law is not an unfunded mandate. Because of the 'Every Student Succeeds Act' passed in Dec. 2015 federal funds become avail. starting in the 2017-2018 year.

While parents should be having this conversation so many don't. We can't leave it up to the parents to talk to kids about this because majority only discuss "don't talk to strangers" Next place children spend most their time is in school.

We are asking for an hour out of a school year. It isn't taking away a lot of time from the school year. An hour can be the difference between a child telling today or suffering through many more years of abuse.

There is plenty of researched based curriculum avail. We are not asking schools to create their own curriculum.

Parents are notified and have the option to opt out their kids.

AH. 3
SB 2342
3-15-17

Chairman and Members of the Committee.

My name is Anna Frissell. I am the Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2342.

It is estimated there are 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the US and research tells us that 60% of victims never tell^{1,2}. Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children aged 17 and under.^{3,4}

Child abuse also happens in North Dakota. In 2016 North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers served 2567 people and provided 25,411 services to them, this included 903 alleged victims of sexual abuse. Every year our Centers see hundreds of children that are sexually abused, raped and threatened. They have experienced violence and at times been exploited through pornography and trafficking and it is time that we do something as a state to address this. Senate Bill 2342 provides for a much needed creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.

Children who are sexually abused are at significantly greater risk for a wide variety of mental health and health problems including PTSD, anxiety, depression and suicide⁶. They are more likely to have substance abuse issues⁵, delinquency⁶, and academic difficulties⁹. They are at increased risk for teen pregnancy⁷, other sexual behavior problems⁸ and eating disorders¹⁰. Not only does child sexual abuse affect children, often adults who were abused as children carry this pain with them for a lifetime. Adults with a history of child sexual abuse are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, heart

problems, stroke or hypertension.¹¹ The CDC has recently estimated the lifetime cost of child abuse to be approximately \$210,012 per victim¹².

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota are committed to improving the response to and prevention of child abuse. The Children's Advocacy Center model is seen as the gold standard response to child abuse across the country at over 800 Children's Advocacy Centers, in all 50 states, including the North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers, covering five regionally placed sites; one in Bismarck, Dickinson, Minot, Fargo and Grand Forks. Each of the Children's Advocacy Centers across the State works with team members from social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities to provide evidence based services to work toward the total well-being of the child and family and to support the complete investigation of the allegations.

Those of us who work at Children's Advocacy Centers recognize that we cannot continue to intervene in these cases without taking steps to stop the abuse from happening in the first place. To this end, CACs work on prevention issues, partnering with schools, the faith communities, organizations, clubs and community members toward stopping child abuse. Likewise, there are efforts to build prevention campaigns blossoming in numerous North Dakota communities, like in Cass County where the Enough Abuse campaign is the foundation of a movement that will be customized to the community needs and resources. The establishment of the prevention task force proposed in this Bill would allow sharing of resources moving toward the common goal...to end the sexual abuse of our children.

We know that child sexual abuse is a serious problem; it is everyone's problem; and something needs to be done about it. The good news is that we know that there are ways to prevent child sexual abuse. We need to ramp up the statewide discussion about how we as adults can lessen the risk of the kids around us every day.

The establishment of this task force is a proactive statewide step toward looking at strategies that can bring about change in behavior and norms. Focusing on policies and practices that will work toward the goal of no more abuse. At the same time, developing education plans that educate both adults and children: Arming adults with the knowledge to recognize grooming behaviors used by predators to prey on vulnerable young people, and how to report and ; supporting body safety education for children, as research tells us they are more likely to tell an adult once they have the knowledge.

Children's Advocacy Centers in North Dakota play a critical role in ensuring the safety of abused children in our state. An integral part of this is preventing child abuse before it happens. We fully support the creation of a multi-disciplinary task force to develop a strategy to prevent child sexual abuse in the State of North Dakota.

Chairman and Members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions.

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