

2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2195

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2195
1/30/2023

Relating to an appropriation to the department of commerce for a grant for pregnancy resource services.

9:00 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the hearing to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, Weston, Hogan** are present. **Senator K. Roers** was absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Pregnancy resource service grants
- Unexpected pregnancy
- Adoption services
- Pregnancy tests

9:00 AM **Senator Clemens** introduced SB 2195 verbal in favor #17725

9:04 AM **Jill Chandler, Director of the Women's Pregnancy Center**, testimony in favor #17760, #17752

9:04 AM **Jill Chandler**, provided additional information verbal

9:22 AM **Rebecca Obrigewitch, Executive Director of the Women's Care Center**, testimony in favor #17769

9:28 AM **Jody Clemens, advocate for life**, testimony in favor #17774

9:44 AM **Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action** verbal testimony in favor #17682

Additional written testimony:

David Scrimshaw, Physician, Doctor of Osteopathic in favor #17693

Lovita Scrimshaw, Physician, Doctor of Osteopathic in favor #17692

Jean M. Nasers, Interim Director, Christian Adoption Services in favor #17635

Angela M. Wambach, Executive Director, Women's Care Center in favor #17590

Kay L. Kiefer, Registered Nurse, We Are Everywhere in favor #17544

9:48 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2195
2/6/2023

Relating to an appropriation to the department of commerce for a grant for pregnancy resource services.

4:00 PM **Madam Chair Lee** called the meeting to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, Weston, Hogan** are present. **Senators Hogan, K. Roers** were absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Pregnancy resource service grants
- Unexpected pregnancy
- Adoption services
- Pregnancy tests
- Education

Senator Cleary moves **DO NOT PASS**.

Senator Weston seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	AB
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion Passes 5-0-1.

Note: Held vote open for **Senator K. Roers**; **Senator K. Roers** voted **yes** at 4:32 PM on 2/6/2023.

Senator Clemens will carry SB 2195

4:02 PM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the meeting.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2195: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2195 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2195
2/6/2023

Relating to an appropriation to the department of commerce for a grant for pregnancy resource services.

4:32 PM **Madam Chair Lee** called the meeting to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, Weston, K. Roers** are present. Senator Hogan was absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Held vote open for **Senator K. Roers**

4:32 PM **Senator K. Roers** voted **Yes** on 2/6/2023.

4:33 PM Madam Chair Lee closed the meeting.

TESTIMONY

SB 2195

My name is Kay Kiefer. I am a Registered Nurse by profession. I am also a woman who has experienced the aftermath of abortion in my own life.

In 2018, I founded a non-profit organization called We Are Everywhere. This 501(c)3 non-profit organization exists to expand awareness about the extent to which abortion can negatively impact women – and to help women find healing and wholeness after abortion.

Abortion has been an emotionally and politically-charged issue across our nation for decades. It remains so today. Since the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2023 decision in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization* returned the issue of abortion back to individual states, there has been a constant barrage of fear-mongering and misinformation on the part of those who support abortion. The loud voices of women who do not regret their own past abortions have been heard across news outlets and social media platforms.

Further, mainstream media sources continue to repeat the mantra that abortion is a necessary – and even a good – part of healthcare for women. They often point to research that seems to suggest that abortion is a benign or even beneficial experience. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Largely missing from the cultural conversation about abortion are the voices of those who regret their past abortions and who have suffered – often alone and in silence – as a result. These voices are missing for a number of reasons. Women often keep past abortion a secret. Many believe they have committed the 'unforgivable sin' and that they will face rejection from family and friends if their secret is revealed. They feel incredibly badly about themselves and believe they deserve the emotional suffering they endure, along with any other misfortunes that occur in their lives as punishment for what they have done.

It is critical that the potential negative impacts of abortion – physical, emotional and even spiritual – be given attention in the public arena. It is especially important that healthcare professionals, mental health care practitioners and clergy be equipped with the information and resources they need to care for those who have been impacted by abortion...in order that healing can occur and a journey toward wholeness can begin.

We Are Everywhere (WAE) is a very small non-profit organization, with a very small budget. There is no paid staff. I am employed as a nurse outside of my home in a position completely unrelated to my work with WAE.

In the past year, WAE became eligible to receive Alternatives to Abortion – Part B funds on a one-time basis. These funds have been used to plan a one-day conference (The Clinical Impact of Reproductive Choice – www.ReproductiveChoiceConference.com) for healthcare professionals which will take place on April 21, 2023 in Fargo, ND. Medical Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Registered Nurses and Licensed Counselors will receive continuing education hours to use toward license renewal for attending this conference. The conference will inform participants about the potential physical, emotional and spiritual impacts of abortion – as well as looking at available research on the topic and hearing experts in the field provide guidance on plausible clinical scenarios related to the issue of abortion. This conference would not have been possible without the funds we received.

Before you now is SB 2195, which could provide the funding needed for WAE and other entities to continue to provide education and resources to healthcare professionals, mental health care practitioners and clergy so they, in turn, can care compassionately and effectively for those who struggle with past abortion. If this legislation is passed and WAE is able to receive funds from this allocation, we will use those funds to reach beyond the 150 participants who will attend our conference in April.

I am in favor of SB 2195 and appreciate your attention to my written testimony. I am disappointed that I am unable to testify in person, but the requirements of my employment do not allow that at this time.

Kay Kiefer, RN

Founder – We Are Everywhere

Senate Bill No. 2195 - In Favor

Written testimony only

January 30, 2023

Madam Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Angela Wambach, and I am the Executive Director of the Women's Care Center overseeing the Fargo and Devils Lake locations. I am providing testimony in favor of bill 2195. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Today you will hear from my colleague, Rebecca Obrigewitch, Executive Director of the Bismarck Women's Care Center. We share the same model of care and similar business models. We work very closely with one another in the care of women of North Dakota.

I thought I would provide some additional information that is specific to each of the centers in which I oversee and would be beneficial for this bill.

In Fargo, we have nearly tripled the number of women that we serve over the past few years. And Devils Lake has nearly doubled the number of women they have served. The increase can also be seen in the number of pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, goals visits, and one on one education visits that we provide. We have also expanded our group life skills classes to include both in-person classes and Zoom options. This helps us to serve more parents. We have also added a mom's support group and a nutrition course. We are adding a Strong Father's program and a few other short courses to best meet the needs of our clients.

This growth has been wonderful! But with such great growth, we also find ourselves having greater needs. We are providing more material assistance to women and families than ever before. I have increased our staffing to be able to better serve those coming through our doors. We have also seen inflation of the costs of medical supplies, office supplies, client care supplies, and labor costs. All of which have greatly impacted our overall expenses and ongoing budgeting. Women's Care Centers are very professionally run. Our centers employ registered nurses, licensed social workers, licensed teachers, licensed counselors,

and other professionals. To retain or hire staff, we need to offer competitive wages. We are blessed to have volunteer medical directors. Each center has a local medical director for the center, and we have a volunteer Radiologist that oversees the ultrasound program and reads our ultrasound images and reports.

The funds we received through the American Rescue Funds in 2022 were greatly appreciated and supported our growth for the past year. Thank you!

The Devils Lake center has not been financially self-sufficient since they opened in 2008. The area of North Dakota that they are in does not have the same charity we see in other parts of the state. Fargo has been able to cover their deficit every year. But that is getting tougher to do and it is always a concern of our organization of how long we can continue to keep the doors open in Devils Lake. We have felt it was important to continue to keep those doors open because the women and families of that rural area need us too. It is our intent and determination to do so.

As we look forward, we know we are going to continue to see growth. And we still have more we would like to do to support the growth. In addition to the increased costs that I mentioned earlier. Devils Lake is need of another part-time person to help meet the needs of the clients on a daily basis. Fargo could use some renovations to add an additional ultrasound room and make a few changes to best support the growth of the services provided. Both locations could use funds for additional marketing and outreach efforts to increase awareness of our services. Our online presence is very effective in reaching women, but even the costs of Google have gone up considerably.

All our services are free and confidential. It is the generosity of our donors and limited grants that keep our doors open. I thank you for your consideration of this bill.



Testimony of Jean Nasers
Interim Director of Christian Adoption Services

Before the North Dakota Senate Committee on Human Services on SB 2195

SUPPORT
January 23, 2023

Thank you, Ms. Chairperson, and members of the Committee for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2195. I am the interim director for Christian Adoption Services and a member of the ND Pregnancy Resource Network.

A few months ago, I received a call from an expectant mom who wanted to meet with me to talk about what it would look like for her to make an adoption plan. We met the following week at a pregnancy center close to her home in rural North Dakota. When we met, she was nervous because she was already parenting other children but knew it would be extremely difficult for her to parent another child as a single parent. She and the father had not known one another for very long and had lots of conflict that would make coparenting hard on them and the child. In our meeting she expressed distress about not being able to know her child or choose the family her child would grow up with. She also was concerned about what her child would think about her not choosing to parent and what other people would think. I met her in this moment and listened to her share her heart, the heart of a mother. I spoke to her distress and concerns. I told her that my job is not to convince her to choose adoption but to help her to make a fully informed decision between parenting or adoption. To help her decide and not slide into a decision out of fear or without adequate support. I told her about open adoption. I explained that she can choose parents for her child, meet the adoptive family before baby is placed with them, and that she can have a lifelong relationship with her child and the adoptive family. The father from this situation felt the exact same way as the mother. After receiving all of the information on open adoption, both the birth mother and birth father decided to make an adoption plan.

In North Dakota, there are hundreds of families that seek to grow their family through domestic adoption but less than 2% of men and women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy choose adoption. In our experience in the trenches with these men and women, the reason why adoption is not considered as often as parenting (and abortion) is because there is a lack of public awareness and knowledge of the current practices surrounding domestic adoption. Those experiencing unplanned pregnancies cannot access services they do not know are available and they will not access services that they have misconceptions about.

The time has arrived for North Dakota to provide public awareness on resources available to expectant parents. The funding provided by this bill would allow us to support public awareness on open adoption, training for staff and volunteers, and funds to be able to travel to expectant parents throughout the entire state, especially those in more rural parts or those that do not have the means to travel. If honored with the full amount of funds requested, my agency would use the funds as follows (each year for two years):

Public Awareness: \$115,000

Training/ Education for Staff & Volunteers: \$35,000

Travel Expenses to Support Expectant & Birth Parents: \$50,000

Please support Senate Bill 2195 so we can increase and continue to provide support to expectant and birth parents throughout North Dakota. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Nasers
 Jean M Nasers

West Fargo Office
 2345 Meadow Ridge Parkway
 West Fargo, ND 58078
 701.237.4473

Bismarck Office
 PO Box 149
 Bismarck, ND
 58501
 701.354.3992



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2195

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
January 30, 2023

Good Morning Madam Chair Lee and honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of Senate Bill 2195 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Pregnant mothers and families often need help for a variety of reasons, from low incomes and lack of childcare training, to the emotional trauma inflicted by those around them who don't support their pregnancy. It's simply a fact, they often require help, and in this state we should be able to provide that help.

With the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* last year and the hopeful successful defense of our state's Trigger Law on abortion, expectant mothers will be seeking options other than abortion to address their circumstances and demands for these services will grow. We as a state and faith community must stand at the ready to help with these needs.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action and our constituents believe strongly, from both a societal and faith basis, in helping pregnant mothers, their children, the fathers, and other family members receive the resources that they may desperately need. This bill does just that – provides help all along their journey in a wholistic manner, potentially through a variety of organizations that can provide an assortment of supportive goods and services. Organizations that address needs before, during, and after birth, as well as organizations that provide healing for post abortive mothers, all offer incredibly valuable services to mothers and their families.

We recognize that this bill is a starting point and implementation will require work. The bill provides a grant to an organization, but that organization needs to be identified and/or possibly created. A way of distributing funds will need to be created as well. We are not sure how much of this needs to be in the Century Code versus administrative rules, but we trust that those questions can be addressed. SB 2195 is an important starting point and we are confident that the committee and the sponsor can work together on any clarification and specificity that may be needed.

1515 Burnt Boat Dr., Suite C-148, Bismarck, ND 58503
mark@Ndfamilyalliance.org
701-355-6425
www.ndfamilyalliance.org

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests that you render a “DO PASS” on Senate Bill 2195, with the suggestion of discussions to add further specificity to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am now happy to answer any questions.

Testimony in Support of SB 2195

Dr. Daniel Scrimshaw, DO, Emergency Medicine Physician

Dr. Lovita Scrimshaw, DO, Emergency Medicine Physician

American Academy of Medical Ethics, North Dakota State Directors

January 26, 2023

Good morning Madam Chair Lee and the honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee. We are physicians in Minot, ND, and also serve as the North Dakota State Directors of the American Academy of Medical Ethics. We are testifying in regard to SB 2195 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill to provide pregnancy resource funding. It is important that North Dakota support pregnant women/mothers.

Testimony in Support of SB 2195

Dr. Daniel Scrimshaw, DO, Emergency Medicine Physician

Dr. Lovita Scrimshaw, DO, Emergency Medicine Physician

American Academy of Medical Ethics, North Dakota State Directors

January 26, 2023

Good morning Madam Chair Lee and the honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee. We are physicians in Minot, ND, and also serve as the North Dakota State Directors of the American Academy of Medical Ethics. We are testifying in regard to SB 2195 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill to provide pregnancy resource funding. It is important that North Dakota support pregnant women/mothers.

JANUARY 30, 2023

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

SB 2195

INTRODUCED BY

SEN DAVID CLEMENS

DIST 16

MY NAME IS SEN DAVID CLEMENS FROM DIST 16. I AM HERE TO INTRODUCE SB 2195 WHICH IS DEALING WITH FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A GRANT TO THE PREGNANCY RESOURCE SERVICES.

THE NORTH DAKOTA PREGNANCY RESOURCE NETWORK CONSISTS OF 2 ADOPTION AGENCIES, 1 MATERNITY HOME, 5 PREGNANCY HELP CENTERS AND 2 POST ABORTION RESOURCES AND OTHER AGENCIES CONSISTING OF 3 PREGNANCY HELP CENTERS, 1 ADOPTION AGENCY, 1 MATERNITY HOME AND 2 POST ABORTION RESOURCES. THIS IS A TOTAL OF 17 AGENCIES SERVING FARGO, WEST FARGO, GRAND FORKS, DEVILS LAKE, DICKINSON, MINOT, PARK RIVER AND MINTO.

ALL THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE WORKING TOGETHER BY PROVIDING HOMES FOR UNWED MOTHERS, MATERIAL CARE FOR MOTHER AND CHILD, ONE-ON-ONE GUIDANCE FOR HOUSING AND EDUCATION OF MOTHER AND CHILD, SERVICES TO UNWED MOTHERS, ADOPTION SERVICES AND POST ABORTION SERVICES. THIS ONE TIME FUNDING IS WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THE AGENCIES TO PREPARE FOR CONTINUED SERVICES IN THE FUTURE.

I HEREBY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SB 2195 AND A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SEN DAVID CLEMENS

Women's
Pregnancy Center

1726 S Washington St, STE 70
Grand Forks, ND 58201

January 30, 2023 – SB 2195

Madam Chair Lee and Committee,

My name is Jill Chandler and I join you today from Grand Forks where I am the Director of the Women's Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for allowing me this time. I represent an organization that is very actively building a culture of LIFE in our state.

We are the practical helpers of the pro-life movement...the hands on, face-to-face help. We are the relationship builders...the connection makers...the parent-support producers.

We're here for those who face the fear and uncertainty that an unexpected pregnancy brings. Our registered nurses listen in unrushed appointments, provide pregnancy testing, and offer the factual medical information our clients need and deserve to make informed decisions.

The first trimester ultrasounds we provide grant new parents a window to the earliest stages of development. Every scan our nurses perform is read by a Diagnostic Radiology specialist at Altru Health System.

We also provide STD/STI Testing and Treatment to encourage healthy relationships before pregnancy. Our nurses become trusted allies as they answer questions and provide unconditional care.

Our Family Care program offers one-on-one weekly mentoring with over 250 class options from our parenting curriculum. We walk with our families until their child turns two...sometimes longer. We become an extension of their family, and sometimes, we're the only support system they have. We get the first photos from the hospital, and we also receive the text or phone call at the first sign of trouble. When our clients finish school or get a new job, we show up to cheer. We love celebrating milestones with our moms and dads.

The material support our clients "earn while they learn," covers much of the baby supplies needed the first two years. Our community of donors also rally to offer support like gas cards, groceries, public transportation passes, Christmas gifts...even new tires.

Everything we do is completely free of charge, and 95% of our annual budget is acquired through donations.

In 2021, we were granted Covid Rescue Funds. It was a much-needed gift following a year of missed fundraising opportunities. We used our allotted funds to take our Center to the next level of service.

- We contracted with a marketing firm to increase our online reach to potential clients. I like to save money, but because Google is anti-pregnancy help, it's necessary to work with the pros. We hope to continue that with the granting of more funds this session. We would also like to utilize billboards by UND. 95% of our clients are women (naturally), but since men are 50% of the pregnancy equation, we'd like to reach more of them.
- We increased our nursing hours to offer appointments M-F, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. I would like to staff some evening hours should we be granted additional funds.
- We provided an additional nurse with ultrasound training which consists of class curriculum and 75 scans with trained supervision.
- We increased staff and volunteer training to better accommodate our clients who face mental health and addiction challenges. Our need for training will continue as we serve more and more vulnerable clients.
- We rented a venue and brought in a panel of post-abortive women for a community event to teach about the true cost of abortion. We also hosted a post-abortive healing retreat. I would like to see similar retreats offered all over our state, should we receive funding.
- We used some funds for direct client care in our parent education program. With the proposed expansion of the Alternatives to Abortion program, we will be able to continue this. Again, we want to reach more dads. We presently have one male mentor who is hoping to work with additional dads as we increase our hours to accommodate working parents.
- Some of the funding was used to increase security measures in our current location following the overturning of Roe V. Wade.
- Finally, we expanded our space with the purchase of a building that is well-suited for our medical clinic. It will afford us an extra ultrasound room and an additional parent education room. The plan to renovate the building, create the Baby Boutique, update our technology, replace our phone system from 1997, and build better donor and client websites is on the to-do list for next year.

We are a small but mighty organization. We steward gifts well. I'm quite certain no one stretches a dime like someone who fundraises 95% of their annual budget. We know how to be accountable.

Thank you for your consideration. We enter this request with the desire to serve more families.

Please note I have given you our latest newsletter and our Commitment to Care and Competence statement. When you hear negative reviews about "crisis pregnancy centers," rest assured...they're not talking about ND.

Respectfully,

Jill Chandler, Executive Director
jill@gfwpc.org
701-746-8866 Office – 218-779-3658 Cell



Our Commitment of Care and Competence

- Clients are served without regard to age, gender, race, income, nationality, religious affiliation, disability, or other arbitrary circumstances. Women's Pregnancy Center does not proselytize.
- Clients are treated with kindness, compassion, and in a caring manner.
- Clients always receive honest and open answers.
- Client pregnancy tests are distributed and administered in accordance with all applicable laws.
- Client information is held in strict and absolute confidence. Releases and permissions are obtained appropriately. Client information is only disclosed as required by law and when necessary to protect the client or others against imminent harm.
- Clients receive accurate information about pregnancy, fetal development, lifestyle issues, and related concerns.
- We do not offer, recommend or refer for abortions, abortifacients or contraceptives. We are committed to offering accurate information about related risks and procedures.
- All advertising and communications are truthful and honest – accurately describing the services we offer.
- We provide a safe environment by screening all volunteers and staff interacting with clients.
- We are governed by a board of directors and operate in accordance with our articles of incorporation, by-laws, and stated purpose and mission.
- We comply with applicable legal and regulatory requirements regarding employment, fundraising, financial management, taxation, and public disclosure, including the filing of all applicable government reports in a timely manner.
- Medical services are provided in accordance with all applicable laws, and in accordance with pertinent medical standards, under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician.
- All staff, board members, and volunteers receive appropriate training to uphold these standards.

Women's Pregnancy Center

January 2023

Did you hear our big news? We're moving!



2810 17th Ave S

In case you missed the news in our Christmas letter—after 35 years of renting, God has blessed us with a building of our own! The dreams of a *someday* strategic plan pale in comparison to God's timing when He opens the door and leads us in. And to your credit, we were financially ready because of your past and present support. Thank you again and again.

Already, many of you have come forward with additional gifts to help with the expenses of renovation and the process of tying loose ends together. Moving in the winter may not be ideal, but many warm hearts are coming together to carry the load. We are so grateful!

We are preparing the space and packing what we can while planning for a February/March move. Our goal is for a smooth and seamless transition—with limited breaks in service to our community. Covid did not shut our doors for even 1 hour, and we believe we are ready to accept this challenge, as well. We've got relationships to build!

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV

Turn the page for more big news—lives saved and lives transformed!

The Road to JOY

By Leanna Ihry



If Chelsea Dowe has learned anything this year, it's that life sometimes doesn't go as planned, but the curve in the road can sometimes end up being the biggest blessing.

The first surprise for Chelsea began with a faint line on a pregnancy test. She wasn't planning to have another child as her son was already in elementary school and life was getting easier. Though she was in a committed relationship with her boyfriend Michael, being pregnant seemed overwhelming.

"I took the first pregnancy test, and then took another the next day. I think I ended up taking four total. They were all positive, so I knew I was pregnant," Chelsea said.

She had learned of the Grand Forks Women's Pregnancy Center [WPC] from family members who had utilized the services and called right away for an appointment.

"When I first came in, I was a mess. I was so anxious and sad. I was worried about my baby and having a miscarriage. I went to talk with Betsey, and she told me everything was going to be ok. She prayed for me and my baby, but I was still afraid," Chelsea recalled.

Chelsea enrolled in the Earn While You Learn program at the WPC and was matched with Mentor Tamara Wynn. "Chelsea was very fearful when she first started, but she was so committed to learning and growing as a parent. The baby's father, Michael, was also ready to learn," Tamara said.

Chelsea shared with Tamara and other staff at the WPC that anxiety was something she had dealt with her entire life.

She was touched by their compassion. "I know with Koko

[former WPC staff] particularly, we were doing a parenting lesson and I was having trouble breathing, and she was just talking me down. She kept saying, "Just breathe, your baby is ok."

Betsey Horken, nurse manager at the WPC also met Chelsea with open arms. "Betsey said to me, 'Anytime you have anxiety that something is wrong, just come and see me and we will do an ultrasound and we will see your baby.' I was so touched. Anxiety is something difficult to deal with. Sometimes people judge me because they don't understand. But I felt like she did understand," Chelsea stated.

As the weeks went by, Chelsea and Michael continued to come to the WPC for parenting classes and support. About a third of the way through their pregnancy, the couple decided to do a blood test to find out the gender of the baby and check for any chromosomal abnormalities.

"I mostly wanted to do it to find out if it was a boy or a girl. I never thought anything would be wrong with my baby. I was so anxious if it was a boy or a girl. Then I got a phone call from the nurse, and she said the doctor wanted to see me to talk more about the results. I knew something was not right. I was told there was an 85% chance my baby had Down syndrome. They also told me she was a girl, but I was so in shock I couldn't even be excited I was having a girl," Chelsea remembered.

She recalls telling Michael the news. His face just fell. He was really sad.

Feeling devastated, the couple stopped at the WPC to share their news. "I remember watching a parenting video with Tamara and I just started crying. She asked me what was wrong, and I told her. Everyone was so uplifting and assured us that everything was going to be ok. I remember Betsey saying, 'You don't know for sure [there was an 85% chance of the diagnosis], but even if she does, she is going to be loved by all of us. And you are going to love her. And no matter what, she is your baby. This baby is the same baby you loved yesterday.'"

It was then Chelsea and Michael began to accept their daughter, regardless of what the future would hold.

Tamara recalls, "When they first got the diagnosis it was very emotional, but the next week she came in and was ready to advocate for her daughter. She had joined Down syndrome support groups and was learning everything she could about it. It was just amazing."

"I knew this wasn't a death sentence. I talked to many parents of children with Down syndrome. I had accepted it and I loved my daughter," Chelsea said.

Chelsea continued to have a healthy pregnancy and in August her beautiful baby girl Akinley was born. "I was so in love with her from the moment I saw her. She is so cute and so beautiful and I just feel like our souls are connected. I love her so much," Chelsea smiled.

The new parents continue to meet with their mentor at the WPC with their sweet baby girl at their side. "I love absolutely everything about her. I don't even know how to describe how much I love my daughter. She is so wonderful. Sometimes I feel ashamed because before I knew anything about Down syndrome, I was so embarrassed and so angry, but I wouldn't change anything about her. I feel like we are connected souls. She is my everything."

Chelsea encourages anyone going through a challenging time in their pregnancy to seek support. "It's a lot less scary going through hard stuff when you have somebody loving you and supporting you each step of the way. I am so thankful for this place," Chelsea concluded.



Mentor Tamara thinks Akinley is extra-special and extra-adorable!



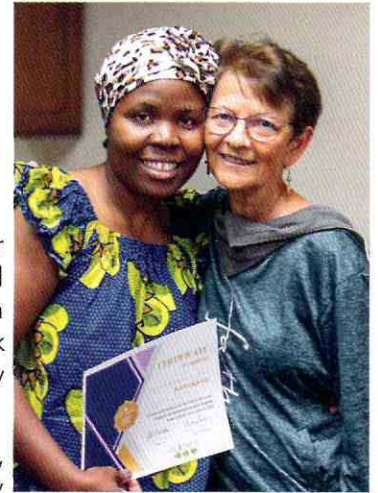
WPC Family Care Coordinator Jacquee agrees 100%!





Celebrating Full Circles—

with Executive Director, Jill Chandler



It was a Tuesday morning. I was working in my office when I could hear the buzz and clamor of energized voices. I found the source of excitement just down the hallway where staff and volunteers huddled around our client Korto and her mentor, Monica. They were watching a video playing on Korto's cell phone. When I heard one of the taped voices say, "We thank Women's Pregnancy Center in America," my eyes welled-up because I knew what they were watching.

Korto is a client who has been mentored well. Since the start of her "circle" within our walls, her faith has grown and so has her heart for the women having babies in her home country of Liberia—many who don't have as much as a blanket when they give birth. Wanting to bless them like she'd been blessed here, Korto came up with a plan. She saves \$10 from each paycheck and applies it to the shipping cost for sending baby clothes to a government facility where women who need it the most, rejoice in her generosity.

Because of Korto's gratitude and ingenuity, our overflow of gently used baby items are shipped to Liberia. That morning, Korto beamed as she shared the reaction of the moms with grocery bags filled with items sorted by size for their children. Your gifts to the WPC are stewarded well—nothing is wasted.

A client we reached is now reaching another part of the world. Korto went from needing help to providing it—from seeking God to sharing Him. That's another beautiful full circle.

People who are built up, build up others. Thank you for enabling us to be in Korto's life.

Gifts given in memory of:

Aaron by Joe & Deborah Shelton

Jerry Altendorf by Charles & Marie Hotvedt

Sandy Anderson by Kevin & Dawn Anderson

Angel by Lucian & Karen Boll

Roseline Badran by Richard & Aida Wakefield

Marie "Toots" Barrett by Kevin & Dawn Anderson

Ellen & Walt Beaman by Charles & Marie Hotvedt

Doris Jean Benson by Loretta Boushee-Devoe

Janice Bilden by Gary Bilden

Norma Brown by Valerie Brown

Beth Bruggeman by Steven & Elaine Vonasek

Audrey Bueide by Dennis & Ann Sondreal

Jim Bushaw by Maxine Bushaw

Galen Cariveau by Charles & Marie Hotvedt

Galen Cariveau by Steven & Elaine Vonasek

Galen Cariveau by Paul & Peggy Zavoral

Arlene Carlson by Pastor Dale & Cris Finstrom

Jack Carney by Bernadine Carney

Todd Case by Kevin & Carol Solem

Lawrence Cobert by Shirley Cobert

Jerry & Becky DeGraffenreid by Anonymous

Patrick Donahue by Dianne Donahue

Layla Enger by Tracy Enger

Joan Enright by Maria Miles

Joan Enright by Steven & Elaine Vonasek

Joan Enright by Paul & Peggy Zavoral

Bethel Erickson by Pr. Todd & Miriam Klemme

Cecilia & Andrew Feist by Dennis Feist

Phyllis Felchle by Steven & Elaine Vonasek

Jean Fortune by Rick & Sharon Knutson

Glory by Joe & Deborah Shelton

Owen Goeser by Betty Goeser

Grandchild lost to abortion by Anonymous

Grandchildren alive & in heaven by Margaret Bryn

Jack Hallstenson by Dick & Myrna Thorsell

Lois Hennessy by John Hennessy

Bob & Kay Hertweck by Lori Barrett

Jacob "JD" Hertwig by Daniel & Joanne Hertwig

Great-gama June Holiday by Brigette Gaberial

Great-grandma June Holiday by Kelissie Gaberial

Innocent A & B by Joe & Deborah Shelton

Isaiah by Jeff & Kari Bjorge

Christopher Jacobs by Dorothy Jacobs

Dr. Francis Jacobs by Dorothy Jacobs

Shirley Jahnke by Larry Jahnke

Thomas Johnston by Todd & Kathy Johnston

Bill Kelsch by Jim & Judy Hettwer

Kathy Kent by Terry Kent

Minnie Kiedrowski by Brad & Nadine Schanilec

Pauline Knutson by Mike & Karlene Dieken

Wally LaBine by Janet LaBine

Dean Larson by Tim & Laurine Hodny

Nancy Cariveau Larson by Steven & Elaine Vonasek

Barbara Lundby by Allen & Clarene Wasness

Elsie & Melvin Marek by James & Elaine Mason

Bobby Mason by Caren Leigh Miller

Roberta Mason by Delores Fast

Eileen Mathiason by Kevin & Dawn Anderson

Professor Arthur Miles by Maria Miles

Morgan by Jeff & Kari Bjorge

Leo Francis Mugan by Steve & Rhonda Huot

Marilyn Palmer by Paul & Peggy Zavoral

My Parents by Francis & Carolyn Kryzsko

Our Parents by Dave & Jean Pelarski

Pam Perkerewicz by Anonymous

Virgil Plante by Jan Plante

Georgia E. Riveland by Steve & Pat Sagaser

Joan Smith by Terry & Mary Ann McKenna

Gladys Snyder by Bev Snyder

Joyce Stocker by Brian & Jill Chandler

Joyce Stocker by Charles & Marie Hotvedt

Joyce Stocker by Steven & Elaine Vonasek

Annella Swartz by Steve & Annella Winger

Mardie Thompson by Paul & Peggy Zavoral

Bobbie Trontvet by Kevin & Debbie Krueger

Herman Tupa by Mary Anne Tupa

Natalie Wavra by Ron & Kathy Wavra

Bernice Winger by Steve & Annella Winger

Thaddeus Zaharia by Mark & Joanne Zaharia

The first step to her fresh start was through our door!

By Leanna Ihry

Abigail, a 23-year-old commercial aviation student at UND, doesn't have many New Year's Resolutions for 2023. That's because the past 365 days have been a pivotal time of change, growth, and reflection.

Last January, Abigail was at one of the lowest points of her life. "I was in such a dark place the day I walked into the Women's Pregnancy Center [WPC]. I remember just praying that I wouldn't have anything," she said. Abigail courageously came to WPC to be tested for sexually transmitted infections [STIs]. She felt sad, broken and alone, and couldn't believe she had gotten herself to this point.

"I had been in a relationship, and we moved in together and then he got a new girlfriend, and I didn't know it. I was heartbroken. I started filling that hole by sleeping with many people," Abigail said.

Abigail grew up in a loving, Christian home. As a high-school student, she wore a purity ring and planned to save herself for marriage. But the peer pressures of college life and wanting to be accepted began to take over. "When I got to college, I thought if I didn't sleep with a guy, he was going to leave me," she said.

Abigail recalls her respect for herself was at an all-time low the day she met Nurse Betsey at the WPC. "She helped me recognize my self-worth and prayed with me. She encouraged me to start going to church again," Abigail said.

Listening to Betsey's advice, Abigail began to attend Hope Church in Grand Forks. This was another step toward healing. "God pulled me out of the darkness. I look back at who I was ... so broken," she said. Abigail's family tells her she "has her sparkle back", and she is truly loving life.



"The WPC, Hope Church, my church back home, and first and foremost, God, changed my life. He allows His strongest people to go through the hardest things. After going through what I did, I know I can get through anything with God," she said.

Abigail encourages any young adult who is struggling with sexual promiscuity to take the step and schedule an appointment at the WPC. "There is no judgement. You are just met with loving arms. Betsey felt like a mom to me," she recalls.

In the last year, Abigail has learned many things, but the most important thing she wants to share with readers is this: "Self worth is way more than doing what people want you to. God is always there for you. No matter what you have done and how low you feel. In your darkest place, He is there waiting for you with loving arms."

Gifts given in Honor of:

All the lives saved by Kent & Valerie Krogstad

Kathy Ashe birthday by Kathy Ashe

Baby Bauske by Dan & Brenda Crane

Children & grandchildren by Charles & Marie Hotvedt

Angel Gaberial by Brigette Gaberial

Grandchildren by Loren & Pam Kuster

Grandchildren by Sheryl Magelssen

Grandchildren by Roger & Ruth Quanbeck

Grandson's safe, healthy delivery by Rose Funseth

Grandsons Carter & August by Gail Schmisek

Hunter, Rebekah & Jager by Jim & Judy Hettwer

Nichole Konderla by Eric & Debra Camperud

C.J. Kulesza by Mike & Kathy Klemisch

John & Sophie Laxen by Mary Ann Laxen

Mann & Whitfield families by Michael & Terrie Mann

Gerry & Marge Ruder by Deborah Ruder

Sacred Heart Bishop Victor Balke by Mike & Julie Marek

Sacred Heart Msgr. Mike Foltz by Mike & Julie Marek

Sacred Heart Fr. James Khembo by Mike & Julie Marek

Sacred Heart Fr. Matt Schmitz by Mike & Julie Marek

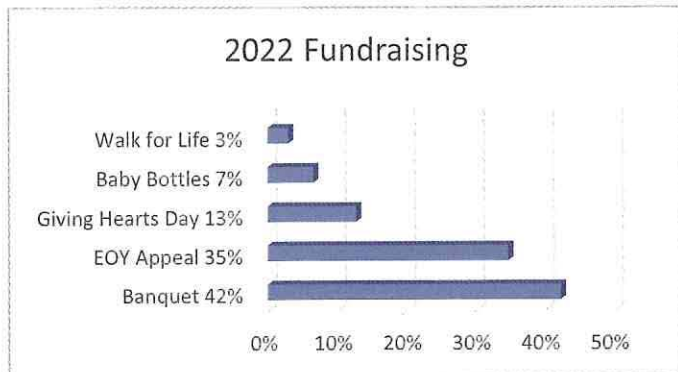
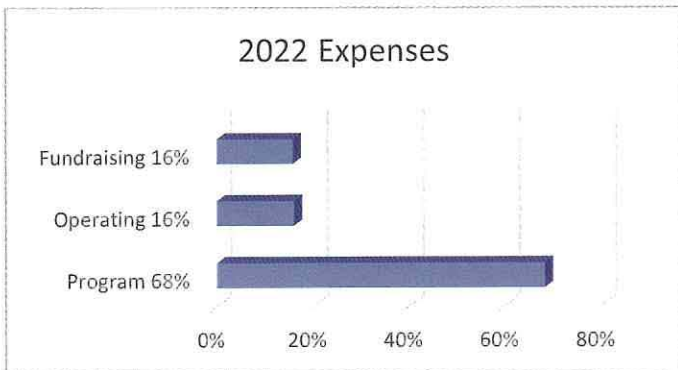
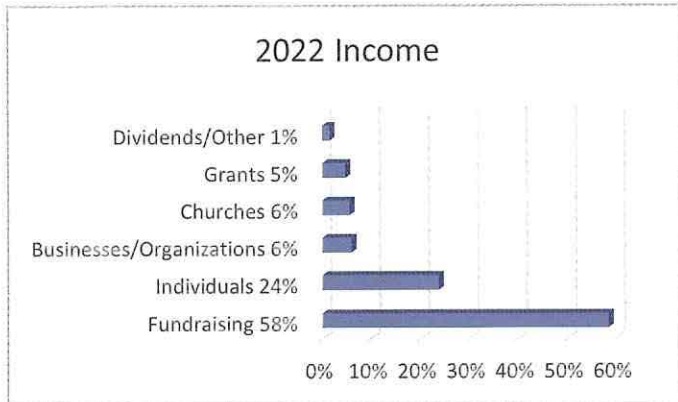
Jeremy Sierra by Sheila Wurden

Baby Strandberg by Dan & Brenda Crane

Fr. Sullivan's 40th Ordin. Aniv. by Mark & Nancy Knox

The children by Bernadine Carney

2022 was another great year in partnership with YOU!



Client Profile

Appointments:

Pregnancy Testing—339 (20%)
 Sonogram—307 Client, 99 Community (18%)
 STI/STD Testing—184 (10%)
 STI Treatment—38 (2%)
 Post Abortive/Counseling—31 (2%)
 Parent Education/Boutique—833 (48%)

Female—95%

Male—5%

Single—90%

Married—10%

Age: 13-19 yrs.—18%

20-24 yrs.—40%

25-29 yrs.—19%

30-34 yrs.—14%

35+ yrs.—9%

Religion: Christian/Catholic—58%

None/Atheist—20%

Native American—6%

Unknown/Other—16%

- We received 3,982 donations from 1,376 investors
- 300 were first-time donors in 2022
- 46% of donations were one-time gifts ... 54% were recurring monthly donations

1,732

Client Visits!

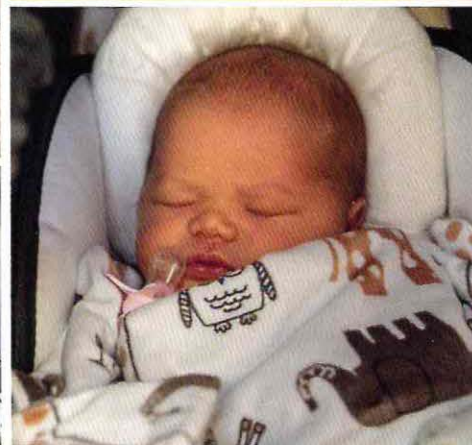
71

Lives Saved!

1,336

Volunteer Hours!

It's a wonderful LIFE!



Our Christ-centered mission is to impact the lives of women and men through education—equipping them to make life-affirming choices that will positively affect their futures, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Board of Directors—

Joel Downs, Chair

Kim Keller, Vice Chair

Joe Martin, Treasurer

Nicole Morris, Secretary

Michael Ritland

Debbie Korsmo

Clinic Staff—

Jill Chandler, Executive Director

Kathy Dostal, Financial Officer

Carmen Walker, Office Manager

Betsey Horken, RN, Nurse Manager

Nicole Novacek, RN

Shawn Snyder, RN

Jacquee O'Neil, Family Care Coordinator

Dr. Eric Pearson, Medical Director



Women's Pregnancy Center

1726 S Washington St, Suite 70
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Phone: 701-746-8866
Email: Info@gfwpc.org
www.gfwpc.org
www.friendsofgfwpc.org
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Forks, ND
Permit No. 449

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Like, Follow
& Share!**



Friends of Grand Forks
Women's Pregnancy Center
(Donor News)



Giving Hearts Day

24 Hours of Online Giving!

Find Women's Pregnancy Center at:

www.givingheartsday.org



Wait until Feb. 9th or schedule your gift today through 2/7.
Matching funds will add extra IMPACT to your donation.
Rather send or bring in a check? Just write **GHD** in the
memo. We'll add it to our online total on the 9th!

To help us say thank you,
"O for Heaven's Cakes"
will reward you with one
Red Velvet Cupcake
for every \$10 gift ... limit 1 dozen. Pick up your
cupcakes on the 9th. We'll be there to greet you!



Ezra's tiny
heart was
beating just
21 days after
fertilization—
all Giving
Hearts start
small!



614 N. 4th Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
(701) 751-4575

Senate Bill 2195 – In Favor
Rebecca Obrigewitch, Executive Director
Women's Care Center Bismarck
January 30, 2023

Madam Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Rebecca Obrigewitch, and I am the Executive Director of the Women's Care Center in Bismarck. I am grateful for the opportunity to share information regarding the services we provide and the impact the funding proposed in bill 2195 would have on our mission. Our Bismarck location is one of three Women's Care Centers across the state with centers in Devil's Lake and Fargo as well. The information I will be sharing about our services pertains to all three locations.

At Women's Care Center, every woman who walks through our door finds a compassionate counselor who will listen without judgement and provide support for her unique situation, whether she is seeking a pregnancy test, an ultrasound, or education. Women are reminded of their inherent dignity and individual strengths, which become the foundation for nine out of ten of the women who come to Women's Care Center to choose to continue their pregnancy. At our Bismarck location, since opening, over 800 babies have been born to our moms. Last year alone, 194 babies were born to moms in this community.

A recent client shared that she was shocked and fearful about the possibility of a pregnancy. She was working two jobs, did not have health insurance, and her significant other was not aware of the potential pregnancy. When our client received positive test results, she requested information regarding adoption. After considering her options and what would be the best choice for her, she decided to make an adoption plan. She requested to meet with her adoption counselor at our center, which had become a safe and comfortable space for her.

Her adoption counselor attended education sessions with her to prepare for the birth of her child and agreed to be our client's support person at the birth since the client did not have anyone to be with her. We were able to accompany our client from her initial counseling session, as she prepared for the birth of her baby, and after her son's birth.

The care and compassion we offer to expectant mothers extends far beyond the birth of their child. We commit to accompanying women every step of the way, from when they first find out they are pregnant, until their youngest child goes to kindergarten. A huge component of what we do is building strong families in our state. We want families in North Dakota to have a great, healthy start. Babies born to Women's Care Center moms have higher birth weights, are properly fitted into car seats, and have parents who have been provided with safe sleep guidelines.

We partner education programs with incentive programs. Parents are equipped with the skills needed to help their families thrive and grow in self-sufficiency, while earning anything they could need for their baby.

Last year, 437 women made over 1,200 visits to our Bismarck center, more visits than ever before. Because of the generosity of our community, every one in six babies born in Burleigh County starts with Women's Care Center.

As we continue to serve more clients, provide more material assistance, and expand our class offerings, funds greatly impact our ability to serve every woman and every family who walks through our door with care, compassion, and support when they need it the most. The funding from this bill would not only allow us to continue to serve every client who needs our support but also to provide exceptional care and expand our services. The ability to bolster our advertising would have a tremendous impact on our ability to reach more women. The growing needs of our clients could be met by improving and expanding our center to accommodate more services. Funds for training would allow our staff to continue to offer the highest level of care possible.

Making full use of the funds we received last year allowed our agency to continue to grow to meet the needs of our clients, improve our center, and retain highly trained and qualified staff.

In closing, it is a privilege to work with the amazing, resilient families in our community who need support during an unexpected pregnancy and in their journey as parents. As we work together as a state to provide this support, thank you for your consideration of bill 2195, which would greatly impact and strengthen our ability to continue to serve expectant mothers, children, and families and to plan for sustainable growth.

Good morning, Madam Chair Lee and Committee

My name is Jody Clemens and I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2195. The Network Bill.

I have been actively involved in prolife work in our beautiful state of North Dakota for four decades in a variety of organizations, including pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes, adoption agencies, sidewalk advocates for life, 40 Days for Life, and post abortion healing and recovery. I currently facilitate Forgiven and Set Free Recovery groups offering hope and healing to women who are suffering the negative aftermath of abortion.

North Dakota statistics state that 833 women on a yearly basis have undergone an abortion at the Red River Women's Facility. That's 833 women in one year. Now let's take that number times the many years the Red River Women's Facility has performed abortions in ND. The Red River Women's Clinic, formerly called the Fargo Women's Health Organization, was founded and has been performing abortions in ND since 1981. That's a lot of years. That's many abortions.

There are potentially hundreds of North Dakota women who are suffering the negative aftermath of their abortion. The Red River Women's Clinic, although no longer in Fargo, only moved their location across the bridge 1 ½ miles from their previous location. ND women will cross that bridge and continue to seek abortions at the Red River Women's Clinic.

The act of abortion that women think will solve a problem, save a relationship, preserve a career, or hide a current live style choice starts them down a long path of self-destructive behavior, emotional distress, and spiritual confusion.

Every year it is reported that 50,000 women will experience serious emotional and mental health problems following their abortion. Not mild problems, serious problems.

The number 50,000 may not seem like a significant number but take 50,000 times the number of years abortion has been legal. 50,000 times 50 years when Roe became the law of the land comes close to 2.5 million women who may be suffering serious emotional and mental health problems.

Abortion is no longer just a word to women who undergo an abortion. It is a real- life event that is always stressful and often traumatic.

As part of my testimony, I have attached some of the emotional, psychological symptoms as well as emotional changes that women may experience following their abortion.

Statistics show that post abortive women are everywhere.

Who are they? They are wives, mothers, grandmothers, your friend, your neighbor, that women you have coffee with 2-3 times a week, your classmate, your roommate, the women ahead of you in the grocery line, the women sitting next to you in church.

But most likely you would never know this because for most women the secret of abortion is kept for years. The average amount of time a woman keeps her abortion a secret is 10 years and some women take this secret to their grave. Last weekend I met a lady at a healing recovery weekend that kept her abortion a secret for over 30 years.

ND is a prolife state. And our numerous ND prolife agencies are a voice of hope to those in an unexpected pregnancy. Our pregnancy resource center, our adoption agencies, our maternity homes do an amazing job. I am grateful for each and every one of our prolife agencies and the sacrificial and loving care they provide.

YET, we also need to be a voice for the 833 ND women that yearly choose abortion. We should not and cannot care for only the women who choose life. We must be a voice of hope and extends hands of mercy to women who choose abortion. I am here today representing Forgiven and set Free, one of the three post abortion outreaches in our state. Forgiven and Set Free offers hope and healing to those suffering the negative aftermath of abortion; as well as to educate the public concerning the negative effects of abortion on women and society.

Senators, although I do support the Alternative to Abortion Bill, Senate Bill 2129, I do see one significant difference in the Alternative to Abortion Bill and this bill, the Network Bill, Senate Bill 2195.

The difference is this. The Alternative to Abortion Bill, Senate Bill 2129 does NOT include funding for the ND post abortion services; while the Network Bill Senate Bill 2195 does include the post abortion service in our state. These services are much needed and they should not be excluded from any ND prolife bill.

Madam Chair Lee and committee, I ask you give the Network Bill, Senate Bill 2195 a do pass vote providing support to those in an unexpected pregnancy; as well as to those that offer seek help after an abortion.

I will stand for any questions.

SYMPTOMS OF POST-ABORTION DISTRESS IN WOMEN

50,000 women each year experience serious emotional or behavior changes after experiencing child loss from abortion. Symptoms may not necessarily appear together, nor will any particular woman experience all of them.

Emotional/Psychological Symptoms

Guilt
Unable to Forgive
Emotional Numbness
Shame
Grief/Sorrow
Unworthiness
Self-condemnation
Feels degraded/debased
Anger/Rage
Depression
Anxiety/Anguish
Loneliness
Bitterness
Confusion
Fears God's punishment
Regret/Remorse
Hopelessness
Helplessness
Panic
Frustration
Feels exploited
Self-hatred
Despair
Feels rejected
Horror
Fears/dreams about losing a child
Flashbacks and/or nightmares
Fear another pregnancy or infertility
Feels inferior
Feels failure

Behavioral Changes

Secretive
Sleep Disturbances
Crying Spells
Divides time into "before" and "after" abortion
Avoids baby reminders
Reduces motivation
Struggle to complete tasks
Struggles with time management
Loss of normal sources of pleasure
Self-punishing and/or self-degrading behavior
Develops eating disorder
Alcohol and/or drug abuse
Suicidal impulses
Promiscuity or frigidity
Loss of interest in sex
Marital Stress
Abusive/tolerates abusive relationships
Compulsive collecting/hoarding
Withdraws from others
Difficulty with all types of intimacy
Changes in relationships
Wants replacement/atonement child
Damages mother/child relationship
Over-protective of living children
Fails to bond with subsequent children
Cutting
Damaged feminine concept
Anniversary/due date reactions

Memorandum of Agreement

This Agreement is entered between The Village Family Service Center -Pregnancy Services (Agency Provider), The Village Family Service Center and the North Dakota Department of Human Services (NDDHS).

NDDHS is responsible for supervision of the Alternatives to Abortion Program. The Village Family Service Center will administer the Alternatives to Abortion Program including marketing, updating and maintaining a toll free number & website listing service providers, making payments to service providers, and reporting outcomes based on a software system for Agency Providers to enter client data, time entry billings and outcomes.

The program will provide positive outcome-based information, counseling, and support post-pregnancy services with the following requirements and expectations:

1. Provide on-going client care services to women are parenting and reside in North Dakota.
2. Provide positive support through information, education, and counseling support to assist women who've chosen to carry their pregnancy to term and give birth.
3. Assist women in making informed decisions about adoption or parenting with respect to the child.
4. Provide on-going client care post-abortion services to women who have chosen to terminate their pregnancy.

Alternatives to Abortion services do not include medical services.

The Agency Provider desires to provide Alternatives to Abortion services consistent with the requirements of the Alternatives to Abortions Program and to meet the requirements of N.D.C.C. § 50-06-26, if applicable, and this Agreement. The Agency Provider agrees to:

1. Screen each potential client to establish that she might be, is or was pregnant;
2. Inform each client that it is her right to secure Alternatives to Abortions services from a provider of those services listed in the Alternatives to Abortions brochure or on the website;
3. Assist NDDHS in gathering data to evaluate the Alternatives to Abortions Program from the client's first visit through the end of services by reporting an outcome for the pregnancy and recording the amount of time undertaken in supporting her through various offered services;
4. Keep confidential the communications between a child and provider or its employees and agents, except as permitted by law or by the informed agreement of the client;

5. Submit to The Village a copy of provider's liability insurance policy for approval and sign a Memorandum of Agreement before requesting payment;
6. Maintain approved liability coverage in effect at all times services are being provided under this Agreement; and
7. Identify in provider's request for reimbursement if the services provided were under subsection a or subsection b of section 1 of the Scope of Service in Amendment D, contract #405-10375.
 - a. Subsection A is for pre-birth services;
 - i. Agency Provider will submit via Procentive software a time entry for any services provided, utilizing the appropriate coding.
 - b. Subsection B is for post birth services and administrative and operating costs. By March 1, 2022, qualified providers of services pursuant to section 9 of the grant are entitled to an amount of reimbursement for allowable expenses, not to exceed a maximum of \$125,000 each for subsection 1b..
 - i. Agency Provider will submit on a monthly basis, scans of detailed Administrative & Operational expenses. Examples of such documentation may be administrative time sheets, invoice of a paid occupancy or telephone bill, etc.
 - ii. Agency Provider will submit via Procentive software a time entry for post birth services utilizing the appropriate coding.

Agency Provider agrees not to:

1. Counsel for, refer for, encourage, or perform abortions, or knowingly refer an Alternatives to Abortions client to another person or agency for the purpose of receiving counseling for, referral for, encouragement for, or the performance of an abortion; or
2. Discriminate against Alternatives to Abortion client on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to actively participate in a religious practice.

Provider for Alternatives to Abortions services will receive reimbursement for services provided based on a rate of \$12.00 for each quarter hour of service furnished by a member of the clergy, a nurse licensed under N.D.C.C. ch. 43-12.1, a physician licensed under N.D.C.C. ch. 43-17, a psychologist licensed under N.D.C.C. ch. 43-32, a social worker licensed under N.D.C.C. ch. 43-41, an addiction counselor licensed under N.D.C.C. ch. 43-45, a counselor licensed under N.D.C.C. ch. 43-47, or a marriage and family therapist licensed under N.D.C.C. ch. 43-53; and at a rate of \$6.00 for each quarter hour of service furnished by any other individual. PLEASE NOTE: With this increase of rates, should the dollars available be expended prior to the end of the contract period, any remaining dollars will be paid prorated to Agency Providers.

This Agreement replaces all other agreements and is effective March 1, 2022 and remains in effect until June 30, 2023, unless terminated by the Agency Provider, The Village Family Service Center or NDDHS.

This Agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of parties, or upon 30-days' written notice by either party, with or without cause. Failure by the Agency Provider to perform the terms of this Agreement may result in the immediate termination of the Agreement.

Agency Provider: The Village Family Service Center – Pregnancy Services

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

The Village Family Service Center

Date: _____

Kelly Olson/CEO
The Village Family Service Center

C: Michele Gee, Director
Economic Assistance Division, North Dakota Department of Human Services

AMENDMENT TO GRANT AGREEMENT

On or about July 1, 2016, the state of North Dakota, acting through its North Dakota Department of Human Services, Economic Assistance Policy Division (Grantor) and The Village Family Service Center (Grantee) entered into a grant agreement to operate the Alternative to Abortion program statewide.

The parties agree that certain parts of that agreement and Amendments A, B, and C should be changed:

1. Effective January 1, 2022, the Scope of Service section is amended to delete the section in its entirety and replace it with the following:

Grantee shall operate the Alternative to Abortion program statewide as defined in subsections a. and b. below.

a. Grantee shall:

- 1) Promote alternative to abortion services;
- 2) Inform the public about the Alternative to Abortion Program;
- 3) Provide a dedicated toll free number to provide available Agencies and locations for individuals needing the services;
- 4) Contract with existing Agencies and future Agencies throughout the state of North Dakota that provide services other than abortion;
- 5) Maintain a list of Agencies;
- 6) Determine the service unit rate paid to Agencies for professionals and paraprofessionals;
- 7) Receive billing based on service units and service unit rates from Agencies;
- 8) Make payments to Agencies based on billing;
- 9) Collect data from Agencies for outcome measures;
- 10) Develop and identify how positive outcomes will be measured from data collected;
- 11) Maintain and provide access to a website with alternative-to-abortion information;
- 12) Identify strategies for continued engagement of women seeking services throughout their pregnancy;
- 13) Identify how services are preventing women from aborting;
- 14) Provide quarterly reports to State to include, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. Number of individuals served
 - b. Services provided to each individual
 - c. Follow-up provided to each individual
 - d. Outcomes of services provided:
 - i. Kept baby
 - ii. Foster care
 - iii. Adoption
 - iv. Aborted (voluntarily or involuntarily)
- 15) Communicate and receive approval for any changes to the services provided from Grantor.

- 16) Provide timelines for the following:
 - a. Promotion of Alternative to Abortion Program;
 - b. Availability and administration of the dedicated toll free number;
 - c. Process of facilitation of services and funding involving Agencies;
 - d. Data collection and outcome measures process; and
 - e. Communication process with Grantor.
- 17) Identify experience in providing counseling services to women who may be pregnant or think they may be pregnant.
- 18) Identify any innovative ideas relating to the administration of the Alternative to Abortion Program.

b. Grantee shall:

- 1) Promote alternative to abortion services;
- 2) Contract with existing agencies and future agencies throughout the state of North Dakota that provide client care service for pre and post abortion, including ongoing client support; and
- 3) Provide reimbursement to service providers for reasonable administrative and operational costs associated with alternative to abortion and post abortion services.

2. Effective January 1, 2022, the Compensation section, as amended by Amendments A, B, and C, is further amended to increase the total amount paid under the grant from \$2,050,000 to \$3,550,000, an increase of \$1,500,000. For the period July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023, the total amount paid under subsection 1.a. of this Amendment may not exceed \$600,000, which was made part of the grant through Amendment C. For the period January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, the total amount paid under subsection 1.b. of this Amendment may not exceed \$1,500,000. By March 1, 2022, qualified providers of services subcontracted with Grantee pursuant to Section 9 of the grant are entitled to an equal amount of reimbursement for allowable expenses, not to exceed a maximum of \$125,000 each for subsection 1.b.

The funding source for the increase is anticipated as follows:

Federal	\$1,500,000	State	\$
Other	\$	Unknown	\$

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 21.027, U.S. Department of Treasury, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Federal Award Identification Number: SLFRP1964

Federal Award Date: May 28, 2021

Data Universal Numbering System Number: 070270103

This award is not for Research and Development.

All other terms and conditions remain as previously written.

THE VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER

By _____ DATE _____

Its _____

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

By _____ DATE _____
CHRISTOPHER D. JONES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By _____ DATE _____
KYLE J. NELSON
CONTRACT OFFICER
Approved for form and content

50-06-22. Gambling disorder prevention and treatment fund - Continuing appropriation.

Funds deposited in the gambling disorder prevention and treatment fund under section 53-12.1-09 are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing the services under section 50-06-21.

50-06-23. Placement of children - Least restrictive care.

Repealed by S.L. 2017, ch. 353, § 10.

50-06-24. Guardianship services. (Effective through August 31, 2022)

The department of human services may create and coordinate a unified system for the provision of guardianship services to vulnerable adults who are ineligible for developmental disabilities program management services. The system must include a base unit funding level at the same level as developmental disability corporate guardianship rates, provider standards, staff competency requirements, and guidelines and training for guardians. The department shall adopt rules for guardianship services to vulnerable adults which are consistent with chapters 30.1-26, 30.1-28, and 30.1-29.

Guardianship services. (Effective after August 31, 2022)

The department may create and coordinate a unified system for the provision of guardianship services to vulnerable adults who are ineligible for developmental disabilities program management services. The system must include a base unit funding level at the same level as developmental disability corporate guardianship rates, provider standards, staff competency requirements, and guidelines and training for guardians. The department shall adopt rules for guardianship services to vulnerable adults which are consistent with chapters 30.1-26, 30.1-28, and 30.1-29.

50-06-25. Biennial report on programs and services.

Expired under S.L. 2005, ch. 411, § 3.

50-06-26. Alternatives-to-abortion services program. (Effective through August 31, 2022)

The department of human services shall disburse funds available through title IV-A of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.] to nongovernmental entities that provide alternatives-to-abortion services and expend funds to inform the public about this program. The services must be outcome-based with positive outcome-based results. The department, in consultation with a nongovernmental entity that provides alternatives-to-abortion services, shall contract to inform the public about this program. For purposes of this section, "alternatives-to-abortion services" are those services that promote childbirth instead of abortion by providing information, counseling, and support services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children.

Alternatives-to-abortion services program. (Effective after August 31, 2022)

The department shall disburse funds available through title IV-A of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.] to nongovernmental entities that provide alternatives-to-abortion services and expend funds to inform the public about this program. The services must be outcome-based with positive outcome-based results. The department, in consultation with a nongovernmental entity that provides alternatives-to-abortion services, shall contract to inform the public about this program. For purposes of this section, "alternatives-to-abortion services" are those services that promote childbirth instead of abortion by providing information, counseling, and support services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children.

50-06-27. Prescription drug monitoring program.

Repealed by S.L. 2007, ch. 212, § 2.