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Chair Lee, members of the committee. My name is Carl Young. I am the Executive Director of the Family Services Network, Inc. here in Bismarck. We are the statewide affiliate for the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS). My wife and I established the organization in 2018 after our son had been removed for the last time from our home for attacking us.

Our son, born in 2001, was diagnosed in 2016 with Fetal Alcohol at the University of North Dakota Fetal Alcohol Clinic. If we had known in the beginning what he was faced with, his whole world might be different. Not to say we would not have had frequent issues requiring out of home placement. But that we could have fought a different fight for him, and for the rest of our family.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome affects not just the person afflicted with the disorder, but everyone that person encounters. In our family, it meant frequent attacks on me. It meant 10 out of home placements over 10 years. It meant that once he turned 18, thru his own choices, he was basically homeless.

It means that he is facing a possible lifetime of criminal activity. He has accrued more than 15 charges in 2 years, some requiring significant jail time. His most recent incident resulted in him spending 4 months in jail, for an incident that could have resulted in 4 to 10 years in prison. An incident that involved firearms and a series of shots exchanged with law enforcement.

Our son has zero impulse control. None. He does not think before he does. This is because one of the areas significantly impacted by FAS is the frontal lobe. Where impulse control resides in an area of the brain that controls executive function.

I stand in support of HCR3011. I have uploaded both this testimony and several handouts.

I will allow others to present their story and stand for any questions.

On March 20, 2021, I helped my son move to Fargo, to a residence with the F5 Project with the hope that a fresh start in a different city will help him be the person I know he can be. It was his choice to make the move. He knows he does not like jail. He knows he is easily influenced. He is at a loss as to how to change that.

Thank you
Carl Young