

HB 1509

Chair Weisz, Vice Chair Ruby and member of the committee,

For the record, I am Representative Liz Conmy, serving District 11 in Fargo.

Today, I am presenting to you House Bill 1509, which originated at the request of several of my constituents.

HB 1509 sets a standard of professional care for pregnancy counseling clinics that may receive state funding. Clinics that receive state funding would be required to have a licensed physician, a registered nurse, a college graduate with a three years of health care management experience and an individual with six years of health care management experience.

The bill also requires at least one individual to provide counseling services, who does not practice outside the professional scope of practice for that individual.

And, in order to ensure quality patient care, the bill requires an organizational chart that includes a description of each service offered, the policies and procedures pertaining to each service, a job description for each discipline and a description of the system for maintaining patient records.

Any patient seeking pregnancy counseling or care should know the credentials of the people from whom they are seeking information. Counselors or staff with no medical training should not be providing medical advice. Not only is that deceptive, but it is unsafe for the patient.

We know access to quality healthcare before, during and after pregnancy can affect outcomes. Inadequate prenatal care can miss important milestones in pregnancy, for example ultrasounds that wrongly predict gestational age, information that could possibly prevent unnecessary procedures later in the pregnancy.

In 2022, there were over 10,000 births in North Dakota and there are about 150,000 women of childbearing age. A state funded pregnancy resource center would provide valuable services for this population, if done professionally and responsibly.

To get the best outcome for a patient, pregnancy care needs to be provided by trained professionals.

I urge you to seriously consider this bill with the patients best interests in mind and provide a do pass.

Thank you for your consideration.

I stand for any questions.

