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**Jared J Solomon M.D.**

March 14, 2023

**House Human Services Committee**

HB1254

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

My name is Jared Solomon. I am a Board Certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist licensed by the state of North Dakota. I am writing to state my opposition to this bill as supported by myself, my professional association the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists (AACAP) and the North Dakota Medical Association.

The provisions of this bill would not allow me to provide evidence-based care to children experiencing normal development both physically, and emotionally. When children and adolescents do not receive the best care that modern medicine has evidence for, we compound the financial and productivity burdens on the state that can be prevented. Early access while symptoms are milder have a proven return on investment (1).

I have also supplied the position statement of AACAP as additional testimony in opposition to HB1254.

I also wish to lodge protest to making this bill an emergency measure. The circumstances and timing of this bill are ones of political choice by the sponsors and run counter to the actual need in the current declared child mental health crisis and emergency passage would serve to worsen the crisis by speeding the criminalization of a good investment in our population's mental health.

I request you DO NOT PASS this bill. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Jared J Solomon M.D.**

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1. Stelmach R, Kocher EL, Kataria I, et alThe global return on investment from preventing and treating adolescent mental disorders and suicide: a modelling studyBMJ Global Health 2022;7:e007759