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Dear House Human Services Committee,

I am testifying today in support of HB 1511. This bill aims to clarify any confusion surrounding the legislation passed last session—SB 2150—by ensuring that physicians practicing obstetrics in North Dakota are well-informed about our state laws.

HB 1511 would require obstetricians to complete a one-hour educational course each time they renew their medical license. This course would be free of charge and count toward the 30 total CME credits they are required to complete every two years. Importantly, this bill is designed to be adaptive—automatically updating to reflect any changes in the law. Should the current lawsuit not uphold our statute, the requirements would adjust accordingly. And, if the law is entirely struck down, there would be no requirement to educate physicians on laws that no longer exist.

Before my role as Executive Director at North Dakota Right to Life, I managed the State Board of Psychologist Examiners. That Board ensured that every applicant knew North Dakota law through a rigorous oral examination process. This diligence is essential—licensed professionals must understand and adhere to state laws to practice confidently and competently.

Our OBGYNs need the same clarity. With ongoing litigation—led entirely by lawyers representing out-of-state interest groups—challenging our laws, it is crucial that our medical professionals stay informed. I have spoken with OBGYNs who practice exceptionally well within the framework of SB 2150, proving that they can provide excellent care to women while upholding our state's pro-life values.

HB 1511 would provide our physicians with the knowledge they need to practice with confidence and clarity, ensuring that they are up-to-date with current laws, regardless of ongoing legal challenges.

I urge the committee to support HB 1511 to promote clear, consistent medical practice across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.