

3/5/2025 - Engrossed HB1268

Senate Human Services

Good Afternoon Chairman Lee and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Representative Karen Rohr, and I represent District 31 which includes part of Morton County, all of Grant County and Sioux County and part of Hettinger County.

I stand before you today to introduce engrossed HB1268 on behalf of a constituent. This bill relates to mandatory drug testing of parents by Human Service Zones.

Prior to inviting my constituent to come forward and go over the need for the bill and the provisions of the bill, I want to inform the committee of a couple of items.

First, prior to submitting this bill, the foster parent and I met with Human Service Zone Directors and staff to discuss foster parent concerns regarding the need for drug testing of parents before unsupervised visits and to come up with a workable solution as part of their safety planning and/or providing education to the custodians.

The way I arrived at the appropriation: Based on information from the Director of Family Services Division for the ND DHS, I was informed that each zone has their own budget, with different funds for drug testing purposes. For the appropriation, I used \$5000.00 x 19 zones for a total of \$95,000.

I stand for questions.

At this time, I would like to introduce Bailie Graner. Bailie is very familiar with the legislative process. Some of you may recognize her name as she testified before your committee last session on a bill to streamline the adoption process and paperwork.

Bailie is a farmwife, a nurse, and has been a foster parent for about 5 ½ years. So not only is Bailie the mother of two of her own children, she has also adopted foster children.

Thank you ~ Representative Karen Rohr