



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Neutral Testimony on House Bill 1556

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Madam Chair Lee and honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to provide neutral testimony on House Bill 1556.

This bill seeks to address an issue of extreme circumstance for children who have exhibited a specific set of harmful behaviors. Our organization believes that for some families that find themselves in these situations, treatment for the child in question is undoubtedly needed and parents may be incapable of handling the situation. If this bill can assist in getting the necessary help for the family by classifying the child as a “child in need of protection,” then we appreciate the bill sponsor’s intent to find a solution.

On the other hand, what concerns us about this bill is the possibility of abuse by making it too easy for parents to relinquish a child when behavioral challenges arise, and parenting becomes much more difficult. Our organization believes that children have a biological and fundamental need to belong to a family and breaking this bond should be a measure of absolute last resort. This bill brings the possibility of abandonment of a child for bad behavior that might not necessarily be as extreme as the bill is intended for.

This bill has two sides that are important to consider. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action submits neutral testimony on House Bill 1556.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Jacob Thomsen  
Policy Analyst  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action