



Testimony prepared for the Senate Human Services Committee  
HB 1562 – Training for mandatory reporters  
Kim Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director  
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Chair Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Kim Jacobson. I serve as the Director of Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, which includes the counties of Traill and Steele, and as President of the North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association (NDHSZDA). I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB 1562.

Human service zones serve as the legal designee for completing suspected child abuse and neglect assessments (commonly known as CPS). In this role, once the assessment process is complete, zones partner with the Children and Family Services Division of North Dakota Health and Human Services to determine if our factual findings meet the legal definition of child abuse and/or neglect.

Community partners are a critical piece of our child welfare safety net. The value and contributions of both unmandated and mandated reporters are significant. They play a key role in bringing forth concerns. Without our partners, our system would not be as effective in ensuring child safety.

The North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association recognizes the importance of school professionals receiving diverse training including mental health topics. It is important for our community educators to be well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of today's students. HB 1562 provides training flexibility for veteran education professionals. At the same time, it prioritizes mandatory reporting training for new education professionals. If more frequent or refresher training is needed, mandatory reporting training is available online and at no cost.

House Bill 1562 supports local decision-making in determining how to fulfill school district training obligations, which allows schools to focus on their roles as educators and specific community needs, including mandatory reporter training. I respectfully request a "do pass" on House Bill 1562. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. I stand for questions from the committee.