



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1308

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Good morning, Chairman Wobbema and honorable members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1308 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Our organization believes that every person has inherent worth, and dignity given from God. Human trafficking, in its various forms, steals that worth and dignity away from the people who are victims of it. A person becomes dehumanized and is turned into a product, rather than a soul with worth, capability, and potential. They deserve to be loved. That feeling of love gets ripped away when people are bought and sold like a commodity.

This bill permanently establishes a human trafficking commission that, along with the duties already outlined, may provide additional education to occupations and professions beyond just state and local employees.

It is important to our organization and its constituents that human trafficking be taken seriously in this state, and this is another step in that direction. More education will lead to greater awareness of the depth and depravity of these situations. This education has the potential to significantly change the lives of victims of human trafficking for the better in our state forever.

North Dakota needs to be a state that understands human trafficking for the sake of its most vulnerable citizens. We cannot be a state that lets human trafficking go unnoticed. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests that you vote "DO PASS" on House Bill 1308. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will stand for any questions.