**Department of Human Services**
**Interim Judiciary Committee**
**Senator David Hogue, Chairman**
**January 05, 2016**

Chairman Hogue, Members of the Interim Judiciary Committee, I am Jonathan Alm, an attorney with the Department of Human Services (Department), and I am here today to offer testimony on the impact of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* on the Department.

The day to day impact on the Department is minimal. The Department is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its applications, forms, and policies, including the marriage policy for the sex offender treatment and evaluation program. The Department will also need to address edits to our automated systems.

The Department expects minimal budget impact and does not expect the need to request additional FTEs to comply with the decision.

The Department has identified the need to amend North Dakota Century Code section 50-25.1-10 concerning privileged communications between a husband and wife for child abuse and neglect assessments. At this time, the Department has not identified any additional code changes needed in response to the decision. The Department recognizes that other sections of law located in North Dakota Century Code title 14 and North Dakota Century Code chapter 27-20 may need to be amended to reflect the decision.

Thank you. I will answer any questions you have.