

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

23/2

2007 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2312

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2312

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-23-07

Recorder Job Number: 1640, 1712

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K Mouson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee, Chairman, opened the hearing on SB 2312 relating to the alternatives-to-abortion services program; to provide for reports to the legislative council; and to provide an appropriation.

Senator Aaron Krauter (Dist. 31) introduced SB 2312. See attached testimony #1.

Representative Kim Koppleman (Dist. 13) testified that SB 2312 is a continuation of a program that began during the last session. He supports the bill for two reasons. First, the program is really in its infancy and he thinks it needs an opportunity to flourish. Second, there probably is not a more divisive issue than abortion. This is an issue that can bring all the pro life and pro choice people together on the same page. Regardless how a person feels about the issue of abortion he thinks everyone agrees on one thing and that is abortion should be rare.

This bill simply creates an opportunity for counseling for alternatives to abortion to be funded through funds already available in the state from the federal government.

Representative Kerzman (Dist. 31) testified in support of SB 2312 saying that he felt very strongly that this is part of the equation for encouraging people to make the right decisions and do the right things.

Carol Cartledge, (Director of Public Assistance, DHS) provided testimony in support of SB 2312. (Attachment #2)

Senator Warner asked if there are also services available to the fathers with the idea of encouraging them to take responsibility or to form permanent partnerships.

Ms. Cartledge replied that she did not have that information.

Senator Warner said it would be useful to have a short video made of young men who have become fathers unexpectedly. Such a video would be useful to have it available to high school teenage boys.

Christopher Dodson (ND Catholic Conference) testified in support of this program. He commended the department for putting it together. (Meter 15:00) He also added that there are a lot of providers who do have services or programs for men, boyfriends, fathers, husbands.

Stacey Pfliiger (Legislative Director of the ND Right to Life Association) presented testimony in support of SB 2312. (Attachment #3 includes her written testimony, testimony from the First Choice Clinic, testimony from Christian Family Life Services, testimony from the Village Family Service Center in Fargo, and testimony from the Saint Gianna's Maternity Home.)

Senator J. Lee asked if there was a facility in Grafton.

Ms. Pfliiger said there is one in Park River and it is her understanding that they do not receive any funds.

There was no opposing testimony.

Senator J. Lee asked Brenda Weisz, Chief Financial Officer for the Dept. of Human Services) to answer some questions to clarify the funding and where it comes from.

Ms. Weisz answered that the funding source they are looking at for this service would be the temporary assistance for needy families. (Meter 21:40)

Senator J. Lee asked if 100% of the funding is for the block grant.

Ms. Weisz replied that funding for the block grant is 100% federal funds. There is a maintenance of effort requirement that the state has to expend x amount of dollars in state funds in order to continue to draw down the block grant.

Senator Heckaman asked if there is anything tied in to income.

Ms. Weisz said there is no income requirement for this service that meets the objective of formation of families.

Senator J. Lee asked if there is any other claim to the same TANF dollars so that there would be competition for this \$400,000 or is it safe to allocate it.

Ms. Weisz said they would not be taking it away from anywhere else.

The hearing on SB 2312 was closed.

Job #1712

Senator Warner moved a Do Pass on SB 2312.

The motion was seconded by Senator Heckaman.

Roll call vote 6-0-0. Motion carried. Carrier is Senator Heckaman.

Date: 1-23-07

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2312

Senate HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No Pass

Motion Made By Sen. Warner Seconded By Sen. Heckaman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Robert Erbele, V. Chair	✓		Senator Jim Pomeroy	✓	
Senator Dick Dever	✓		Senator John M. Warner	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Heckaman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 23, 2007 4:55 p.m.

Module No: SR-15-1070
Carrier: Heckaman
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2312: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2312 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2312

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2312

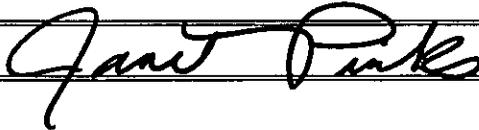
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02/01/07

Recorder Job Number: 2505

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on SB 2312.

Aaron J. Krauter, District 31, Regent, testified in support of SB 2312, indicating this bill is the third time around and today the purpose of this bill is to make it a permanent program within the Department of Human Services. The reason it is here is because of the funding mechanism. He then briefly explained the program which is to help pregnant women in their situations and this bill will provide dollars on a reimbursable basis. This identifies the source of the money, being TANF dollars and some of the money is to be used for public information to get the word out that the services are available. Brochures will be distributed about the services.

Senator Fischer asked if the funds would be used for new providers. The response was yes.

Representative Kim Koppelman, District 13, West Fargo, testified in support of SB 2312 indicating the bill have been debated in the policy committee. He discussed the appropriation being all special funds.

Carol Cartridge, DHS, indicated she would respond to any questions on the program.

Senator Krebsback asked about the dollar expenditures in the program.

Senator Fischer asked about all of these funds being 100 percent TANF.

Page 2

Senate Appropriations Committee

Bill/Resolution No. 2312

Hearing Date: 02/01/07

Chairman Holmberg asked if the remainder of the funds would be expended by the end of the biennium.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on SB 2312.

Senator Krauter moved a DO PASS on SB 2312, Senator Fischer seconded, No discussion, a written vote was taken resulting in 12 yes, 0 no and 2 absent. Senator Heckaman will carry the bill.

Date: 2/1/07
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2312

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Krauter Seconded By Fischer

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chrm	✓		Senator Aaron Krauter	✓	
Senator Bill Bowman, V Chrm	✓		Senator Elroy N. Lindaas	✓	
Senator Tony Grindberg, V Chrm	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Senator Randel Christmann	✓		Senator Larry J. Robinson		
Senator Tom Fischer	✓		Senator Tom Seymour	✓	
Senator Ralph L. Kilzer	✓		Senator Harvey Tallackson	✓	
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Rich Wardner	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Heckaman Hum Serv

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 1, 2007 9:25 a.m.

Module No: SR-22-1744
Carrier: Heckaman
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2312: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2312 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2312

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2312

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 26, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3844

Committee Clerk Signature

Judy DeRoach

Minutes:

Chairman Price: We will open the hearing on SB 2312.

Senator Aaron Krauter, District 31: See attached testimony. Review report attached. I asked the department to get out a brochure that I have handed out to you as well. It is quite informative.

Representative James Kersman, District 31: I feel strongly to all we can to promote life. With a crises pregnancy it is important to give them the proper information so they can make good sound choices. It is federal dollar, and I hate to see us save it.

Chairman Price: I think the last session and this session is to make sure the rural areas have access. This is not just a urban program.

Rep. Kerzman: It was address very well and there is a hot line. TANIF dollars is federal dollars and if the state doesn't spend it all it is dedicated to special programs. This is not an income requirement, anyone can use this.

Representative Kim Koppleman, District 13 West Fargo: Abortion is the most divisive issues to deal with. The reason this bill enjoys such broad support, I believe the one thing both sides agree abortion should be rare. This bill allows opportunity for counseling for alternatives to abortion and I think it is money put to very good use.

Representative Conrad: Another woman who has been through this does not get any support services is that right?

Rep. Koppleman: Not sure what other programs do, but this bill does not do that.

Christopher Dodson, Executive director to the ND Catholic Conferences: See attached testimony. There is hope for these women out there. There are people there to help women through this. These centers provide people who have had abortions and have had children. The brochure shows all the providers in ND. See attached.

Representative Conrad: Would you have any problem providing funding for services to women who have had abortions, and maybe we should give information about abortion if we are going to provide a full gamete of services.

Mr. Dodson: they would have to go through our social service agencies. It is not the states policy to provide counseling to women who have had abortions, and giving information on abortion would be going against the purpose of the program.

Stacy Pfliger, Legislative Director of the ND Right to Life Association: See attached testimony. Also attached are letter from various groups receiving funds.

Carol Cartledge, Director of Public Assistance of the Department of Human Services: See attached testimony, and the brochure that has been talked about.

Representative Porter: In the voucher system what is the dollar amount placed on a voucher? Inside of the bill the way it stand with the appropriations, how much of the money is figured for client contacts or vouchers and how much money is considered for other things such as advertisements, and what kind of advertisements are you looking at? How much of the 400,000 do you expect to use for vouchers?

Ms Cartledge: The vouchers are reimbursed at \$12.50. Currently to date we have not done anything about advertisement, so I don't know how much would be used. I believe based on

some estimates of expenditures we have anticipated around 218,000 would be for direct services we would need for vouchers, and we are including the expansions for the western ND.

Rep. Porter: You're thinking like about 120,000 is than available for other types of expenditures whether it be will bill boards or other types of media blitz?

Ms Cartledge: That would be true. I am not an expert on advertising so I can't say for sure. I am sorry I did not copy the outcome information. The report was completed by the department of Human Services from January through October of 2006.

Representative Conrad: How many abortions did we have in ND last year? Of the 1030 in 2006 survey do we know how many had already decided not to have an abortion? It seems to me Madam Chair we are giving incentives to people who had already made the decision to not have an abortion. This is not necessary an alternative to abortion, it seems good pregnancy counseling.

Ms Cartledge: I do not know, but I can get the number of abortions for you. We do not have anything to do with issues of abortion.

Senator Krauter: I could just address the appropriation aspect of it. When you look at the working of the way we do things in appropriation, the wording is up to 400,000 being of federal dollars. It is a voucher of reimbursement. It is not that the Department is going to go out and spend exactly 400.000.

Representative Porter: I was basing my questions on Ms. Pfliger's testimony about a media blitz. I was wondering from the Departments stand point what that dollar amount is going to be, and in following up with that appropriation of 400,000 is just for the voucher system and not a media blitz.

Senator Krauter: If you read the bill it also talks about getting the word out and informing the public. If you look at the statistics the areas in the state where data has been received back of individuals who have gone to some treatment or assistance. We need to get the word out to the entire state of ND.

Chairman Price: Any further testimony? Any opposition? If not we will close the hearing on SB 2312

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2312

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 27, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4017

Committee Clerk Signature

Judith Schock

Minutes:

Chairman Price: Take out SB 2312 for discussion. Does anyone need any information or questions, or bringing in amendments?

Representative Kaldor: I am bothered by the issue of bring in money for the media. There was a bit on conflict in the discussion. My understanding one of the individuals said that the \$400,000.00 would be used for these services and the promotion would come for advertising would come from somewhere else. 400 is the spending authority. What is going into services and what is going to go into promotion? I am assuming appropriations committee will want something more specific on the promotional side of this. I would have problems with that.

Chairman Price: On line 11, they could do 50-50 if they wanted the way it is written. How do you feel about bill boards? What are your wishes, do you want to put a limit on what is spent on media?

Representative Conrad: I really don't think unless they are putting it in the faces of people who are uncomfortable with this. I would think it is more than we want to do. The brochure seems fine. That is what we do with every other program I don't know why we now. I would like to think about it.

Stacy Flieger with Equal Rights: As you said with line 11 where it talks about getting the word out basically. In conversations we had in the interim with the department we talked about various ideas.

Representative Price: Don't you think that 119,000 is a little expectant for advertising?

Representative Conrad: I don't know a program in the State where we solicit clients.

Christopher Dodsen: The idea in the whole last session was that there is a place for central information. The emphasis was getting the program started. They could talk to the department on what they could use now for advertising and get some idea what that would cost. The brochure came out last month. Other states that have this program, and some strong beliefs in advertising.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2312

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 28, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4144

Committee Clerk Signature

Judy Dehock

Minutes:

Chairman Price: Take out SB 2312 for action.

Representative Schneider: Does the money stay in the Human Services Department?

Chairman Price: it provides services based on professional or non professional, in 15 minute intervals.

Representative Porter: This program was established last session it was established as a program that had both the counseling and the expenses to run the program. The changes that are made top it area with in reason to what was intent last legislative session. Having a blank open end of money knowing that there is an increase rise in the amount of calls and billed. The department will need to make sure they don't run out of money on the service end by spending it on advertising. I move a do pass RR/Appropriations, seconded by **Representative Weisz.**

Representative Conrad: In 2005 we had 878 abortions in ND residents. This is really a pregnancy program which we have been doing. We used to call it Family Planning. We always try to help them to prevent abortion. We have not added alternative to abortion possibly to political reasons. I would not have any problem with the program, but I say we take

75,000 out of here. Why do we need that kind of money for public information? I make a motion we substitute the motion, seconded by **Representative Potter**.

Chairman Price: We will take the roll on the motion with 5 yeas, 7 nays, and 0 absent. The substitute motion fails. We do have the other motion before us; we will take the roll on those 11 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 absent. **Representative Price** will carry to the floor.

Date: 4/28
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES SB 2312 Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken As Pass RR/APP

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Weisz

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman	✓		Kari L Conrad		✓
Vonnie Pietsch - Vice Chairman	✓		Lee Kaldor	✓	
Chuck Damschen	✓		Louise Potter	✓	
Patrick R. Hatlestad	✓		Jasper Schneider	✓	
Curt Hofstad	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Gerry Uglen	✓				
Robin Weisz	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 1 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Price

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Just in

Date: 2/28
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES

SB2312

Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Substitute Motion

Motion Made By Rep. Conrad Seconded By Rep. Potter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman			Kari L Conrad	✓	
Vonnie Pietsch - Vice Chairman		✓	Lee Kaldor	✓	
Chuck Damschen		✓	Louise Potter	✓	
Patrick R. Hatlestad	✓		Jasper Schneider	✓	
Curt Hofstad		✓			
Todd Porter		✓			
Gerry Uglen		✓			
Robin Weisz		✓			

Total (Yes) 5 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 7 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: Failed

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 1, 2007 12:32 p.m.

Module No: HR-39-4178
Carrier: Price
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2312: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2312 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

2007 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2312

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

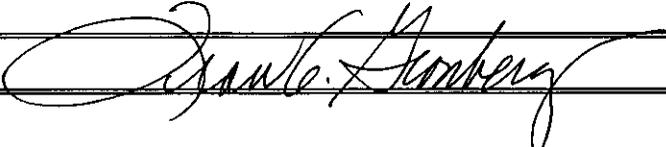
Bill/Resolution No. SB 2312

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3-9-07

Recorder Job Number: 4772

Committee Clerk Signature 

Minutes:

Chairman Svedjan opened the hearing on SB 2312.

Rep Price, Dist 40: (distributed handouts - attachments A and B)

Last session we passed this bill, the alternative to abortion, we put a sunset clause on it so we would revisit it this session. There are adequate funds for this plus carryover into the next biennium. This program didn't get off and running that quickly this biennium, in fact it really started January 1, 2006, and in that time period through October 31, approximately 580 women in 22 counties received services. These are counseling services. The age range was between 12 and 44 years. I have passed out the publication they have put together with lists of services and where to get them. The current appropriation is \$400,000, the last biennium it was \$500,000. They didn't use all the money. They also used some of the money to pay for the 211 line.

Chairman Svedjan: This would be a continuation because it was sunsetted. This is not an enlargement of the program, but a continuation with the possibility of two new sites.

Rep Price: The only new language is on page 1, line 11.

Rep Kempenich: It is sunsetted again. Is it to keep following it?

Rep Price: It is the appropriation time frame. The sunset is out on line 7.

Page 2

House Appropriations Committee

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2312

Hearing Date: 3-9-07

Rep Ekstrom: What will the billboard look like? Are they going to advertise the service or are they going to do the : "are you pregnant" and go get an abortion etc.?

Rep Price: That was part of the conversation. On line 11 it says "about this program" . It is not the "abortion stops the beating heart" .

Rep Wald moved a Do Pass

Rep Weiland seconded the motion

(yes) 18 (no) 3 (absent) 3

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 9, 2007 2:23 p.m.

Module No: HR-45-4890
Carrier: Price
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2312: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(18 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2312 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

SB 2312

SB 2312

Senate Human Service Committee

Sen. Judy Lee, Chair

Chairwoman Senator Judy Lee and committee members for the record my name is Aaron Krauter, State Senator from District 31 which is made up of the counties of Hettinger, Grant , Sioux and part of Morton, including the city of Mandan.

I am before you today to introduce SB 2312. Madam Chair and committee members this has been a long process but let me tell you that with your help we have made great progress in providing alternatives for pregnant women to have child birth and we still have a ways to go.

Last session SB 2409 was passed that started the "Alternative to Abortion" program within the Department of Human Service. It was set up to provide funding to providers to help with counseling and support services that assist pregnant women who believe they may be pregnant to chose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children. I am happy to report that the department started the

program and has set a voucher payment system to reimburse providers for the services.

The funding source are the federal TANF dollars which allow for the purpose of encouraging the formation and maintenance of two parent families. The state has experienced roll up TANF block grant dollars from previous biennium of 2001-03 \$6.8 million, 2003-05 \$10.8 million and I am awaiting the roll up dollars for the current 2005-07 biennium.

As part of SB 2409 from the 2005 legislative session the Department of Human Service gave periodic reports to the Judiciary Committee. I have attached its final report for your review.

Section 1 of the bill make permanent the "Alternatives to Abortion" program because the bill sunsets from the 2005 session.

Section 2 requires the department to make an annual report.

Section 3 appropriates up to \$400,000 for the program.

Madam Chair and committee members there are many here to testify in support of this bill and again I thank you for your support in previous sessions. I will stand for any question.

UNIFORM LAWS REVIEW

The North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws consists of nine members. The primary function of the commission is to represent North Dakota in the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The national conference consists of representatives of all states and its purpose is to promote uniformity in state law on all subjects on which uniformity is desirable and practicable and to serve state governments by improving state laws for better interstate relationships. Under NDCC Sections 54-35-02 and 54 55-04, the state commission may submit its recommendations for enactment of uniform laws or proposed amendments to existing uniform laws to the Legislative Council for its review and recommendation during the interim between legislative sessions.

According to testimony from a representative of the North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws, the national conference has recommended the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act; Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act; Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act; Uniform Power of Attorney Act; Uniform Limited Liability Compact Act; Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse and Neglect and Custody Proceedings Act; and the Model Registered Agents Act. The state commission indicated that the uniform Acts that are possibilities for recommendation in North Dakota are the Uniform Commercial Code Revised Article 1 and the Uniform Trust Code, both of which were studied by the interim Judiciary Committee, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act, and amendments to the Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act. According to the testimony, the 1987 version of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act was adopted in North Dakota in 1989. The testimony indicated that the revised Act has added people, in priority order, who can authorize the anatomical gift and the Act clarifies that those same people do not have the authority to revoke a gift.

The committee makes no recommendation regarding these uniform Acts.

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The committee received two reports from the Department of Human Services regarding the status of the alternatives-to-abortion services funding program. The department was assigned the responsibility of establishing an alternatives-to-abortion services program in North Dakota. According to the report from the department, it was the intention of the Legislative Assembly that the department seek funds from the federal Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

for this project. The report indicated, however, that funds from this office were available only for abstinence programs or grants to agencies that would provide technical assistance to faith-based or community-based programs interested in applying for federal funds. The report indicated that with no funds available from this source, TANF funds are being used to fund the alternatives-to-abortion services program. It was noted that the Charitable Choice provisions in TANF govern the administration of this program.

According to the report, the department provides alternatives-to-abortion services by making vouchers available to individuals needing the service. Those individuals use the vouchers to access the services and the service providers use the vouchers to bill the department. This method allows the department to pay all interested providers for these services. The department contacted all agencies that had been providing alternatives-to-abortion services before the implementation of the program. According to the report, these agencies became partners in developing this program and are receiving payment through the program for their services. The eight agencies currently providing these services are Catholic Charities of North Dakota, Christian Family Life Services, First Choice Clinic, the Perry Center, the St. Gianna's Maternity Home, The Village Family Service Center, the Women's Pregnancy Center, and the YFC Teen Moms. According to the report, the Mental Health Association in North Dakota is also a partner by allowing use of the 211 hotline to direct referrals to the alternatives-to-abortion program. The department has developed a script for the Mental Health Association staff to use when they get a 211 call regarding an unplanned pregnancy.

According to the report, the program became operational shortly before the beginning of 2006. At the time of the report, the eight service providers had submitted claims and all had been paid or approved for payment. That amount, as of July 31, 2006, was \$43,555. The total of all clients served and billed for all months since the program began was 556 as of July 31, 2006. The report indicated that the voucher process is an effective way to deliver this service and the current rate of spending suggested that the \$500,000 appropriated in Senate Bill No. 2409 was sufficient for the intended purpose. According to the report, program funds cannot be used to provide medical service. All funding must be used for offering alternatives-to-abortion services. The report also noted that the department will have more data on the results and effectiveness of the program for the Legislative Assembly during the upcoming session.

Alternatives to Abortion Services



There is
Help...

North Dakota Department of
Human Services

Non-discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs

The North Dakota Department of Human Services makes available all services and assistance without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability or status with respect to marriage or public assistance, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and the North Dakota Human Rights Act.

Individuals needing accommodation or who have questions or complaints regarding the provision of services according to these acts may contact the Civil Rights Officer, North Dakota Department of Human Services, Judicial Wing, State Capitol, 600 East Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505 (1-800-755-2671 voice or 1-800-366-6888 TTY); or the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, Region VIII, Federal Office Building, 1961 Stout St, Denver, CO 80294 (303-844-2028 voice or 303-844-3439 TTY)

Right to request alternative provider.

If you object to the services given by the provider you choose, you have the right to go to any other provider on the approved provider list for services. Services from the alternative provider will also be at no charge.

Non-discrimination statement

An approved provider may not discriminate against a client on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to actively participate in a religious practice.

North Dakota
2-1-1TM
Get Connected. Get Answers.

For information, referral, and crisis management services in North Dakota 24 hours a day.



North Dakota Department of Human Services
Public Assistance Unit
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325
Bismarck ND 58505-0250
Phone 1-800-755-2716 Fax 701-328-1060
TTY: 1-800-366-6888 Email: dhseap@nd.gov
www.nd.gov/humanservices
DN#88 (1206)

Who is eligible?

Any woman residing in North Dakota who is pregnant or who thinks she may be pregnant is eligible for these services.

What help is available?

The North Dakota Department of Human Services can offer assistance for alternatives to abortion. Services may include:

- Pregnancy testing
- Counseling
- Pre-natal classes
- Parenting classes
- Referrals

All services will be handled in a confidential manner, and your identity will not be revealed when an approved provider presents their request for payment. You will be asked to give your birth date and the last four digits of your social security number so the department can gather data on the amount of service given to individuals and where the services are given.

A variety of organizations provide these services across the state. A list of approved providers by location is printed on this brochure.

Who do I call?

To obtain services, contact one of the listed providers.

North Dakota Approved Providers by City

BISMARCK

Catholic Family Services
919 S 7th St Suite 607
Bismarck ND 58504-5881
701-255-1793

The Village Family Service Center
411 N 4th St Suite 10
Bismarck ND 58501-4078
701-255-1165

New Life Crisis Pregnancy Center
1501 N 12th
Bismarck ND 58501-2713
701-224-0621

FARGO-MOORHEAD

Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead
512 Center Ave Suite D
Moorhead MN 56560-1956
701-237-0359

Catholic Charities of ND
5201 Bishops Blvd Suite B
Fargo ND 58104-7605
701-235-4457

Christian Family Life Services
203 8th St S
Fargo ND 58103-1824
701-237-4473

First Choice Clinic
1351 Page Dr Suite 205
Fargo ND 58103-3536
701-237-6503

Perry Center Home for Unwed Mothers
2355 Meadow Ridge Pkwy
West Fargo ND 58078-2383
701-241-9289

The Village Family Service Center
1201 25th St S
Fargo ND 58103-2311
701-451-4900 or 1-800-627-8220

YFC Teen Moms
65 N 3rd St
Fargo ND 58102-4869
701-237-6682

GRAND FORKS

Catholic Charities of ND
311 4th St S Suite 105
Grand Forks ND 58201-4782
701-775-4196

Lutheran Social Services
412 Demers Ave
Grand Forks ND 58201-4508
701-772-7577

Women's Pregnancy Center
11 S 4th St Suite 210
Grand Forks ND 58201-4735
701-746-8866

HAZEN

Lutherans for Life
PO Box 523
Hazen ND 58545-0523
701-748-2292

MINOT

Catholic Family Services
216 S Broadway Suite 103
Minot ND 58701-3852
701-852-2854

The Village Family Service Center
300 3rd Ave SW Suite D
Minot ND 58701
701-852-3328

MINTO

Saint Gianna's Maternity Home
15605 County Road 15
Minto ND 58261-9476
701-248-3077 or 1-877-701-3077

PARK RIVER

Pregnancy Help Center
Highway 17 E & Kensington
PO Box 626
Park River ND 58270-0626
701-284-6601 or 1-888-280-6303

Testimony
Senate Bill 2312 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Service Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 23, 2007

Same given to House Human Services

Chairman Lee, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of Public Assistance of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with a information on Alternatives-to-Abortion Services.

2005 Senate Bill No. 2409 created and enacted the establishment of Alternatives to Abortion Service Program. The Department of Human Services established and implemented a procedure to facilitate funding to nongovernmental entities that provide alternative to abortion services. Services provided under this program promote childbirth instead of abortion by providing information, counseling, and support services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children. Professional staff such as licensed nurses and social workers and para-professional staff such as nursing and social work interns provide services. Nine entities provide services that include assessment, counseling, education and referrals.

Service providers bill the Department of Human Services by using the Alternative to Abortion Services Payment Voucher. The form is used to collect billing information and outcome information as directed under Senate Bill 2409. Outcome information collected includes information on services provided and the outcome of the services provided, if known.

Approximately 580 women have taken advantage of these services from January 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006. The year to date total of services submitted for payment through December 2006 is \$96,212.

The Department of Human Services has a contract with the Mental Health Association for the use of their 2-1-1Get Connected. Get Answers. service. This statewide information, referral and crisis intervention service is free and operator-serviced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Alternative-to-Abortion providers are part of the potential referrals for anyone that is pregnant or thinks they are pregnant. In addition, this information is being programmed onto the Mental Health Association's website. There is a three month contract with the Mental Health Association for the use of the 2-1-1 service and the programming of the website for \$5,700.

These are allowable services to be paid under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families TANF block grant. There is money within the TANF block grant allotment for the \$400,000 discussed in Senate Bill number 2312.

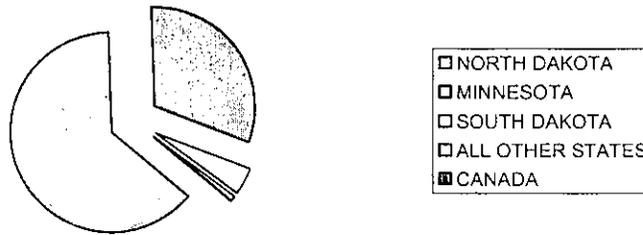
This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any question

ND OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
2005

INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY STATE OF RESIDENCE

STATE OF RESIDENCE	NUMBER OF EVENTS
NORTH DAKOTA	778
MINNESOTA	389
SOUTH DAKOTA	54
ALL OTHER STATES	9
CANADA	1
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

NORTH DAKOTA OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF
PREGNANCY BY STATE OF RESIDENCE, 2005



INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
BY GOVERNOR'S PLANNING REGION OF RESIDENCE

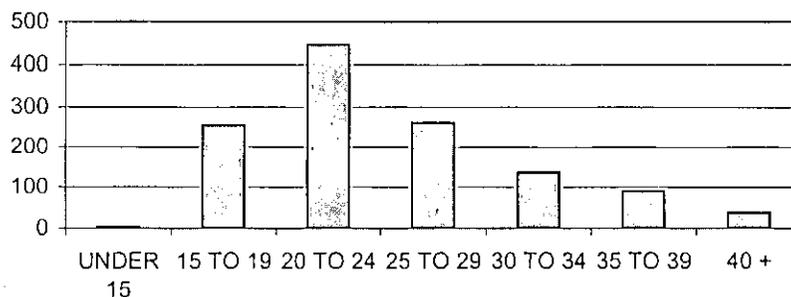
REGION	NUMBER OF EVENTS
OUT OF STATE	453
I	15
II	101
III	44
IV	153
V	262
VI	38
VII	141
VIII	24
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

**ND OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
2005**

INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY AGE OF WOMAN

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF EVENTS
UNDER 15	2
15 TO 19	255
20 TO 24	447
25 TO 29	262
30 TO 34	137
35 TO 39	90
40 +	38
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

**NORTH DAKOTA OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF
PREGNANCY BY AGE GROUP, 2005**



INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

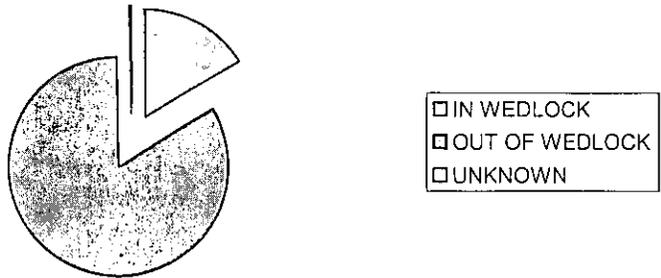
LEVEL OF EDUCATION	NUMBER OF EVENTS
LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	186
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	377
SOME COLLEGE	493
FOUR YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE	147
GRADUATE LEVEL COLLEGE	23
NOT STATED	5
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

**ND OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
2005**

INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY WEDLOCK STATUS

WEDLOCK STATUS	NUMBER OF EVENTS
IN WEDLOCK	203
OUT OF WEDLOCK	1024
UNKNOWN	4
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

**NORTH DAKOTA OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF
PREGNANCY BY WEDLOCK STATUS, 2005**



INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN

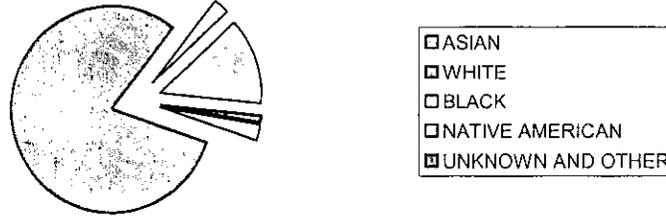
NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN	NUMBER OF EVENTS
NONE	544
ONE	301
TWO	216
THREE	110
FOUR	47
FIVE OR MORE	13
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

**ND OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
2005**

INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY RACE

RACE	NUMBER OF EVENTS
ASIAN	30
WHITE	990
BLACK	31
NATIVE AMERICAN	168
UNKNOWN AND OTHER	12
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

**NORTH DAKOTA OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF
PREGNANCY BY RACE OF WOMAN, 2005**



**INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
BY NUMBER OF PREVIOUS INDUCED TERMINATIONS**

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS INDUCED TERMINATIONS	NUMBER OF EVENTS
NONE	835
ONE	271
TWO	82
THREE	26
FOUR OR MORE	17
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

ND OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
2005

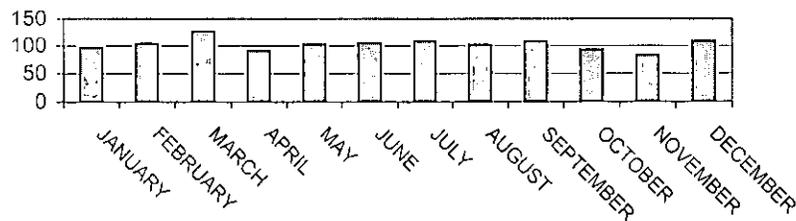
INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY WEEKS GESTATION

WEEKS GESTATION	NUMBER OF EVENTS
FIVE OR LESS	24
SIX	160
SEVEN	281
EIGHT	245
NINE	127
TEN	126
ELEVEN	107
TWELVE	65
THIRTEEN	47
FOURTEEN	26
FIFTEEN	16
SIXTEEN OR MORE	7
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BY MONTH OF TERMINATION

MONTH OF TERMINATION	NUMBER OF EVENTS
JANUARY	96
FEBRUARY	104
MARCH	127
APRIL	91
MAY	103
JUNE	105
JULY	109
AUGUST	102
SEPTEMBER	109
OCTOBER	93
NOVEMBER	83
DECEMBER	109
OCCURRENCE TOTAL	1231

NORTH DAKOTA OCCURRENCE INDUCED TERMINATION OF
PREGNANCY BY MONTH OF OCCURRENCE, 2005





North Dakota Right to Life Association

Testimony before the SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 2312
January 23, 2007 10:00 am

Chairman Lee, members of the committee, I am Stacey Pflieger, Legislative Director of the North Dakota Right to Life Association. I am here today in support of SB 2312 relating to the alternatives-to-abortion services program.

The alternatives-to-abortion services program has reaffirmed the tradition of the state of North Dakota to protect every human life whether unborn or aged, healthy or sick (NDCC 14-02.1-01).

Since the 59th legislative session when the alternatives-to-abortion program was established a lot of work has gone into the implementation of the program. This work was a collaborative effort by legislators, the Department of Human Services, organizations that provide pregnancy support services, and other interested groups and individuals.

Now that the program has been established, it is important to take the next step of inform the public about the alternatives-to-abortion program. This expansion is especially important in our "college towns". I believe a "media blitz" campaign that includes billboards, posters, postcards in college campus mailboxes, newspaper ads, and distribution of the Alternatives to Abortion Services brochure can accomplish the goal of informing the public. I think it is also worth noting that by targeting our "college towns" with this type of campaign we will reach the population of women who are abortion prone.

SB 2312 fosters a respect for human life and provides the opportunity to help meet the needs of North Dakota women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

I urge the committee to give SB 2312 a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.



firstchoice
CLINIC

Putting You First, For Life!

701.237.5902 Phone
701.237.0363 Fax
1381 Page Dr. Suite 205
Fargo, ND 58103
www.firstchoiceclinic.com

Values

Health

Education

Relationships

January 22, 2007

TO: North Dakota Legislators
RE: Alternatives to Abortion Services program
FROM: Pauline Economon, RN, MSN, MA, Executive Director

On behalf of FirstChoice Clinic and the clients we serve I would encourage you to continue to provide support for the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Alternatives to Abortion program. The program has provided additional support to our agency; with the new brochures and the incorporated voucher system, it will continue to provide much needed education and financial assistance to help women and couples in need.

Listed below are a few highlights of the program we have experienced at our agency:

Ease of Use -- User friendly forms for both staff and clients

Client response:

- We have received NO negative feedback from clients or any refusal of service after explanation of program.
- A majority of our clients relay to us the message that they are thankful we are able to provide this moral service.

Benefits to our clinic and clients served:

- The program has strengthened our collaborative network of agencies.
- The program itself makes a statement that the residents of North Dakota want to support women in a challenging or at-risk pregnancy.
- The added revenue we receive helps us to continue to provide life affirming services in North Dakota. With the support of this program, FirstChoice Clinic will be better able to achieve its goal of developing a medical pregnancy help center in Devils Lake.
- Additionally, have been able to use a portion of this additional revenue to enhance our advertising -- we've added radio commercials, internet keyword advertising, upgraded our website, developed posters to advertise services.

Again, I would encourage the North Dakota Legislature to continue this program. In relation to many other programs, there are not a lot of dollars spent here but I can assure you that the funds we receive help us help the most vulnerable. You have an opportunity to help make positive changes in the lives of many young people at a relatively low cost -- continue this program and help us help those who truly need our services.

Our Mission Statement

Providing education and health services to empower individuals to make informed, life affirming choices.

January 22, 2007

TO: North Dakota Legislators
RE: Alternatives to Abortion Services program
FROM: Pauline Economon, RN, MSN, MA, Executive Director

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Christian Family Life Services

A Licensed Child-Placing Agency
203 S. 8th St. Fargo, ND 58103
Phone 701-237-4473 Fax 701-235-1703



1-22-07

Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

Due to some urgent cases, none of our staff is able to travel to Bismarck on Tuesday to appear on behalf of the Alternatives to Abortion Bill that is up for renewal.

However, I do want to thank the ND legislature for passing such a bill last session. I can honestly state that, for a small adoption agency like ours, the reimbursements for alternative to abortion birth parent services have been a wonderful thing and have made a difference. They have allowed us to continue serving birth parents in a quality way, including traveling out to where they are (some at great distances). I know specifically of cases in which the birth mother was abortion-prone and yet chose to give life to her child because of our services.

I urge the legislature to approve this bill again, so that agencies like ours can continue to offer birth parent services at no cost. It made me proud that our legislature passed such a bill. Surely this is legislation around which people on both sides of the life issues debate can agree, because it not only promotes life, but also it serves women well.

Christian Family Life Services encourages your support for SB 2312.

Sincerely,



Ann R. Dahl, LSW, LPC
Administrator, CFLS

Good morning members of the Senate Human Services Committee.

My name is Susan Grundysen. I am a licensed certified social worker employed by The Village Family Service Center. Our program, The Adoption Option, is a collaboration between The Village Family Service Center and Lutheran Social Service of ND providing pregnancy counseling, adoption services, and search and disclosure services. Both agencies are licensed child-placing agencies by The ND Department of Human Services. I wish to provide written testimony in support of SB 2312.

The Alternative to Abortion Service funding assists our agencies in continuing to provide free Pregnancy Counseling. Funding supports the counseling and support work we do throughout the state, ensuring the opportunity for women, men and families to make informed decisions regarding their choices with respect to their unborn child.

Our agencies have reported to the NDDHS outcomes for those who received Alternative to Abortion Services in 2006, and have found only one woman who continued with her plan to seek out an abortion out of the 85 who received the service through our agencies.

The brochure has a necessary correction, as it failed to list the Fargo site of Lutheran Social Services, 1325 11th St S Fargo, ND 58103 (701) 235-7341. This is in addition to our Fargo Village site for services.

On behalf of the Pregnancy Counseling staff from The Village Family Service Center and Lutheran Social Services of ND, we thank the Legislature for considering the most vulnerable of clients, the unborn, in the important work that is done at our State Capital.



Saint Gianna's Maternity Home

15605 County Road 15

Minto, ND 58261

701-248-3077 or 877-701-3077

www.saintgiannahome.com

saintgiannahome@hotmail.com

January 22, 2007

TO: Senator Aaron Krauter

FROM: Saint Gianna's Maternity Home, Warsaw, ND

RE: Bill #2312 Abortion Alternatives

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Saint Gianna's Maternity Home in Warsaw, ND, we are writing in support of Bill #2312 and urge you to pass this important legislation. The Abortion Alternatives program has provided funding for critical services for women in crisis pregnancies.

In 2006, St. Gianna's Maternity Home participated in the Abortion Alternatives program and received approximately \$2,000 per month. These funds enabled us to expand our services in the areas of pre-natal and parenting classes, and to provide much needed counseling. Since the women and children we serve actually reside at the Home, we are able to have daily contact with them, which has increased the effectiveness of the teaching and counseling.

We at St. Gianna's Maternity Home are very grateful for the funding that we have received thus far from the Abortion Alternatives program and strongly favor the passage of Bill #2312.

"Lord, let the light that has been lit in my soul never be extinguished." ~Saint Gianna

SB 2312

House Human Service Committee

Representative Price, Chair

Chairwoman Representative Price and committee members for the record my name is Aaron Krauter, State Senator from District 31 which is made up of the counties of Hettinger, Grant , Sioux and part of Morton, including the city of Mandan.

I am before you today to introduce SB 2312. Madam Chair and committee members this has been a long process but let me tell you that with your help we have made great progress in providing alternatives for pregnant women to have child birth.

Last session SB 2409 was passed that started the "Alternative to Abortion" program within the Department of Human Service. It was set up to provide funding to providers to help with pregnancy testing, counseling, prenatal classes, parenting classes and support services that assist pregnant women who believe they may be pregnant to chose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children. I am happy to report that the department started the program and has set up a voucher payment system to reimburse providers for the services.

The funding source are 100% federal TANF dollars which allow for the purpose of encouraging the formation and maintenance of two parent families. The state has experienced roll up of TANF block grant dollars from previous biennium of \$6.8 million for 2001-03, \$10.8 million for 2003-05 and \$14.9 million for the current 2005-07 biennium. So you can see that adequate funding is available.

As part of SB 2409 from the 2005 legislative session the Department of Human Service gave periodic reports to the Judiciary Committee. I have attached its final report for your review.

Section 1 of SB 2312 will make permanent the "Alternatives to Abortion" program because the bill sunsets at the end of this biennium.

Section 2 requires the department to make an annual report.

Section 3 appropriates up to \$400,000 for the program.

Madam Chair and committee members there are many here to testify in support of this bill and again I thank you for your support in previous sessions. I will stand for any question.



*Representing the Diocese of
 Fargo and the Diocese
 of Bismarck*

Christopher T. Dodson
Executive Director and
General Counsel

To: House Human Services Committee
From: Christopher T. Dodson, Executive Director
Subject: Senate Bill 2312 (Alternatives-to-Abortion Services Program)
Date: February 26, 2007

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports Senate Bill 2312 to reauthorize the alternatives-to-abortion services program.

When the last Legislative Assembly authorized the alternatives-to-abortion services program, it recognized that:

- No woman should ever feel that abortion is a “best” or only option;
- Behind every crisis pregnancy is an unmet social need, such as the family support, housing, education, job opportunities, health care, addiction, or role models;
- These needs are met through a variety of local agencies and organizations, with different missions, structures, philosophies, and expertise; and
- Addressing these needs not only helps women with their immediate situation, but it also prevents future problems and enhances the development of stable two-parent families and encourages adoption.

Finally, the abortion alternatives program is a partnership of hope. Through it, local nongovernmental agencies and the state government work together to provide much needed assistance to women facing difficult situations. This aid translates into hope.

We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on Senate Bill 2312.

103 S. 3rd St., Suite 10 • Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 223-2519 • 1-888-419-1237 • FAX# (701) 223-6075
<http://ndcatholic.org> • ndcatholic@btinet.net

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE POLICY DIVISION

ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION PROGRAM REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2006 THRU OCTOBER 31, 2006

ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION PROGRAM REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2006 THRU OCTOBER 31, 2006

BACKGROUND

During the 2005 legislative session, the Legislature directed the Department of Human Services to “establish and implement a procedure to facilitate funding to nongovernmental entities that provide alternatives-to-abortion services. The services must be outcome-based with positive outcome-results...’alternatives-to-abortion services’ are those services that promote childbirth instead of abortion by providing information, counseling, and support services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children.”¹

The program was active by December 2005.

PROVIDERS

Nine agencies are currently providing alternative-to-abortion services. Seven agencies provide outpatient services while two are residential facilities for pregnant women. Alternatives-to-abortion services are directly provided by both professional and para-professional staff, from program directors, program supervisors, nurses, other paid staff and trained volunteers.

Services that are provided by professional staff are billed at \$12.50 per unit of service. Services provided by para-professional staff and trained volunteers are billed at \$5.00 per unit of service.

Services that are offered by all nine agencies include counseling, education and referrals. According to the description of services that each agency provided, counseling is generally providing assistance to the women or couples with decision-making of whether to parent, make an adoption plan or terminate the pregnancy. Education is generally about options available to the mothers and couples, such as adoption and parenting. Education can also include pre-natal education, fetal development, making healthy choices during and after pregnancy, and information about childbirth.

All agencies indicate that they assess the needs of the women or couples and make referrals to other community agencies and providers, as appropriate.

SERVICES RECEIVED

Approximately 580 women in 22 counties received alternatives-to-abortion services from January 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006 for those agencies who reported the county of residence for

¹ 2005 Session Laws, Chapter 412, Senate Bill No. 2409, 1625, Retrieved January 9, 2007, from <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/59-2005/session-laws/documents/PWELJF.PDF>

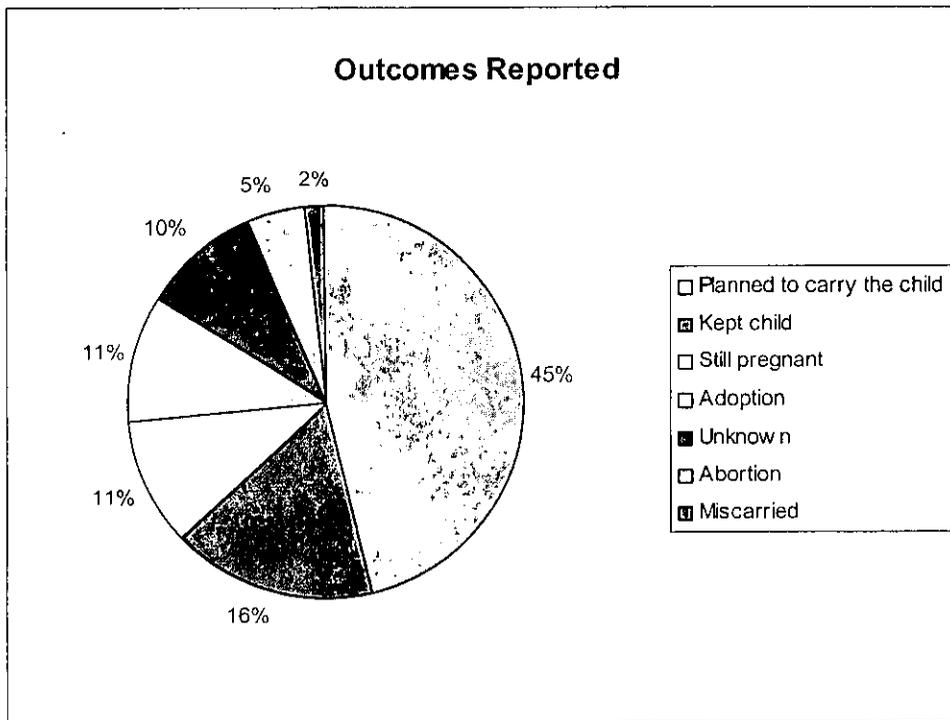
clients they served. The majority of women received services in the three most populated counties; Cass, Burleigh and Grand Forks.

The age range served was between 12 and 44 years. The average age was 23 years old.

Services that were provided ranged from pregnancy tests, various types of counseling related to the woman's pregnancy and decision-making, education regarding pregnancy, adoption, parenting, childbirth, and maternity clothes, baby items, and prenatal vitamins.

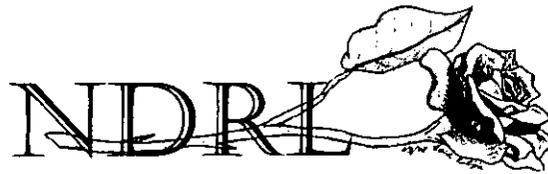
OUTCOMES

The results, as shown on the pie chart below, were reported by eight of the nine agencies. One agency did not include outcomes as part of their report.



Additional outcomes reported that are not shown on the chart below are:

- One client had emergency surgery and terminated her pregnancy due to a tubal pregnancy.
- One client was referred by an abortion clinic and decided not to abort her child.
- No children born were placed with relatives or in foster care.



North Dakota Right to Life Association

Testimony before the HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 2312
February 26, 2007 10:30 am

Chairwoman Price, members of the committee, I am Stacey Pflieger, Legislative Director of the North Dakota Right to Life Association. I am here today in support of SB 2312 relating to the alternatives-to-abortion services program.

The alternatives-to-abortion services program has reaffirmed the tradition of the state of North Dakota to protect every human life whether unborn or aged, healthy or sick (NDCC 14-02.1-01).

Since the 59th legislative session when the alternatives-to-abortion program was established a lot of work has gone into the implementation of the program. This work was a collaborative effort by legislators, the Department of Human Services, organizations that provide pregnancy support services, and other interested groups and individuals.

Now that the program has been established, it is important to take the next step to inform the public about the alternatives-to-abortion program. This expansion is especially important in our "college towns". I believe a "media blitz" campaign that includes billboards, posters, postcards in college campus mailboxes, newspaper ads, and distribution of the Alternatives to Abortion Services brochure can accomplish the goal of informing the public.

SB 2312 fosters a respect for human life and provides the opportunity to help meet the needs of North Dakota women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

I urge the committee to give SB 2312 a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.



701.237.5902 Phone 701.237.0363 Fax 1351 Page Dr. Suite 205 Fargo. ND 58103
www.firstchoiceclinic.com/friends

TO: House of Representatives – Human Services Committee Members

Clara Sue Price - Chairman

Vonnie Pietsch - Vice Chairman

Kari L. Conrad Chuck Damschen

Patrick R. Hatlestad Curt Hofstad

Lee Kaldor Todd Porter

Louise Potter Jasper Schneider

Gerry Uglen Robin Weisz

FROM: Pauline Economon, RN, MSN, MA
Executive Director, FirstChoice Clinic (Fargo)

RE: SB 2312 – Relating to the Alternatives to Abortion Services Program

DATE: February 26, 2005

Madam Chairman Price and members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Pauline Economon and I am the Executive Director of FirstChoice Clinic, a pregnancy help clinic in Fargo. I ask on behalf of FirstChoice Clinic and the clients we serve - to support SB 2312. FirstChoice Clinic is one of the providers for the ND Human Services Alternatives to Abortion services program. As such, in 2006, our agency was reimbursed \$15,875, about 10% of our overall client services budget of approximately \$175,000. This program has provided additional support and helped to supplement our educational programs, e.g., pregnancy counseling, prenatal classes and parenting education.

Our clinic provides support and education to a client, often from the very first time she finds out she is pregnant until about one year after her child is born. Services are provided in a neutral, confidential and nondiscriminatory atmosphere. Our Clinic is founded on Christian principles (we are faith based) however, with clients, there is no promotion of any religion or religious teachings. We offer care and compassion for our clients facing a difficult decision and do not profit by their decision in any way. We are committed to accurate and factual medical information to our clients to let THEM make the best decision, a fully informed decision. With our professional staff and trained volunteers, we feel we can meet the emotional and material needs of women of all ages facing an unplanned pregnancy. At our clinic in 2006, we had over 1800 client contacts.

Listed below are a few highlights of the Alternatives to Abortion program we have experienced at our agency:

Ease of Use -- User friendly forms for both staff and clients make the program easy to implement and document -- it's not a paper nightmare!

Client response:

- We have received no negative feedback from clients or any refusal of service by clients after explanation of the program.
- A majority of our clients relay to us the message that they are thankful we are able to provide this caring service during their stressful time.

Benefits to our clinic and clients served:

- The program has strengthened the collaborative network of agencies this bill has supported -- we are all better able to help the clients we serve and have another bond that enhances our collaborative efforts.
- The program itself makes a statement that the residents of North Dakota want to support women in a challenging or at-risk pregnancy.
- FirstChoice Clinic is actively developing a presence in Devils Lake -- we have had several community meetings and discussions with Devils Lake health care professionals. Our goal is, by the summer of 2007, to develop a medical pregnancy help center in Devils Lake. By 2008 we hope to have a presence in western North Dakota.
- Additionally, have been able to utilize a portion of this additional revenue to enhance our advertising -- we've added radio commercials, upgraded our website, and developed posters to advertise our services.

Again, I would encourage the North Dakota Legislature to continue this program. In relation to many other programs, there are not a lot of dollars spent here but I can assure you that the funds we receive help us help the most vulnerable. With this program you have an opportunity to help make positive changes in the lives of many young people at a relatively low cost -- continue this service program and help us help those who truly need our services.

I would be happy to address any questions or comments from the members of the committee, please do not hesitate to contact myself at 1.888.237.6530 (work) or 701.799.2186 (cell phone). Thank you in advance for you consideration.

FirstChoice Clinic - Mission Statement
Providing education and health services to empower individuals to make
life affirming choices

Christian Family Life Services

A Licensed Child-Placing Agency
203 S. 8th St. Fargo, ND 58103
Phone 701-237-4473 Fax 701-235-1703



1-22-07

Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

Due to some urgent cases, none of our staff is able to travel to Bismarck on Tuesday to appear on behalf of the Alternatives to Abortion Bill that is up for renewal.

However, I do want to thank the ND legislature for passing such a bill last session. I can honestly state that, for a small adoption agency like ours, the reimbursements for alternative to abortion birth parent services have been a wonderful thing and have made a difference. They have allowed us to continue serving birth parents in a quality way, including traveling out to where they are (some at great distances). I know specifically of cases in which the birth mother was abortion-prone and yet chose to give life to her child because of our services.

I urge the legislature to approve this bill again, so that agencies like ours can continue to offer birth parent services at no cost. It made me proud that our legislature passed such a bill. Surely this is legislation around which people on both sides of the life issues debate can agree, because it not only promotes life, but also it serves women well.

Christian Family Life Services encourages your support for SB 2312.

Sincerely,

Ann R. Dahl, LSW, LPC
Administrator, CFLS