

**Testimony**  
**Engrossed House Bill 1115 – Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Senator Dave Nething, Chair**  
**March 2, 2011**

Chairman Nething, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Dean Sturn, and I am the Foster Care Administrator for the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you an overview and explanation relating to the confidentiality of all foster care records as provided in Engrossed House Bill 1115. The Department supports passage of this bill.

Engrossed House Bill 1115 clarifies that all North Dakota foster care records are confidential records. Section 50-11-05 of North Dakota Century Code already addresses the confidentiality of information contained in records of licensed facilities, but is not specific to foster care records of the Department and its authorized agents. By adding language specific to foster care records of the Department and its authorized agents, rules governing requests for the release of information contained within all foster care records will be clearly stated in law.

If passed, engrossed House Bill 1115 would ensure that information contained within all foster care records is treated as confidential.

This concludes my testimony, thank you for your support of Engrossed House Bill 1115. I would be happy to answer any questions.