

Testimony
Senate Bill 2086 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chair
January 15, 2013

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Dean Sturn, Foster Care Administrator for the Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services Division. I am here today to support Senate Bill 2086 introduced at the request of the Department; and to provide you with an overview and explanation of the proposed change of verbiage to section 27-20-30.1 of the North Dakota Century Code. This section of the Uniform Juvenile Court Act relates to the disposition of children needing continued foster care services past the age of 18.

The current verbiage of this section notes that the agreement for continued foster care services for children past the age of 18 must be "willfully entered between the department of human services or its agent, the child, and the foster parent." Senate Bill 2086 would amend the phrase "foster parent" to the phrase "foster care provider." This change in verbiage would clarify that a placement in foster care does not always mean placement in family foster care with foster parents. Placement in foster care also encompasses placements in Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCF) and Group Homes. The change in this verbiage would allow for all types of foster care placements to be covered by the noted section of North Dakota Century Code 27-20-30.1.

This concludes my testimony, thank you for your consideration in support of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions.