

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2063 – Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Senator David Hogue, Chairman**  
**January 13, 2015**

Chairman Hogue, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Julie Hoffman, Adoptions Administrator for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2063 which was introduced at the request of the Department.

This bill amends North Dakota Century Code Section 27-20-45, the Uniform Juvenile Court Act, regarding proceedings for termination of parental rights. The proposed changes on page 2, lines 19 through 20, would require the court to provide a copy of the petition and summons to the Department at least 10 days prior to a hearing on the petition. Since most children subject to termination of parental rights in this section will be placed in the custody of the Department, we believe receiving a copy of the petition and summons prior to the hearing is warranted. The Department receives notice of adoption petitions under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 14-15, so the proposed change would be consistent with existing provisions in another statute.

The Department recommends passage of Senate Bill 2063. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.