

Testimony
Human Services Committee
Representative Delzer, Chairman
April 1, 2008

Chairman Delzer, 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 information on Alternatives-to-Abortion Services.

2007 Senate Bill No. 2312 amended and enacted the Alternatives to Abortion Service Program. The Department of Human Services has a procedure to facilitate funding to nongovernmental entities that provide alternative to abortion services. 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.

Under this program information, counseling, and support services are provided that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth instead of abortion and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children. Approximately 472 women ranging in ages from 13 and 45 received services through providers of Alternative to Abortion services from July 1, 2007 through February 2008.

Of the known information received from the service providers, 17 children were placed for adoption, 25 kept the child, 304 are still pregnant, 2 miscarried, 119 had a negative pregnancy test, and 3 abortions.

From July 1, 2007 through March 14, 2008, of the \$400,000 appropriated, \$91,208 has been paid to service providers and \$4,441 for administration of the program. The administration of the program includes payment for informing the public of the program and to Mental Health America for the 2-1-1 service.

One of the other requirements under Senate Bill 2312 is to inform the public about this program. In September 2007, posters and brochures were sent to North Dakota university, colleges, and larger high schools requesting the facility post the information in the public information area of their facility. In April 2008, posters and brochures will be sent to health care providers and a larger group of schools within North Dakota.

Attached is a report completed by North Dakota Department of Human Service Decision Support Services with a compilation of outcomes as reported by the service providers.

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