

**Engrossed House Bill 1085-Department of Human Services  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman  
March 7, 2011**

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Jennifer Barry, the Early Childhood Services Administrator with the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with an overview of Engrossed House Bill 1085. The Department is also offering additional amendments to clarify some of the language in Section 1 of the bill.

Section 50-11.1-07.8 of the North Dakota Century Code gives the Department the authority to suspend an early childhood services license, self-declaration, or registration document during an investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect at the premises of the program or of a staff member. The passage of this bill would give the Department the authority to prohibit an individual who is the subject of a child abuse or neglect investigation from being present in a child care program if continued operation with the individual present would jeopardize the health and safety of the children present. By prohibiting the individual subject, rather than suspending the license, self-declaration or registration document, the Department would allow for continued operation of the child care business with the subject of the investigation prohibited from the premises.

Subsection 2 of Section 2 of this bill provides an amendment to Section 50-25.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code. Currently, when a child abuse and neglect assessment takes place in a child care program, the parents of children in the program are entitled to specific information regarding the assessment only if their child is suspected to have been

abused or neglected in the program. The addition of Subsection 2 of Section 2 would allow the parent or guardian of any child receiving early childhood services in the program to receive the name of the subject, a summary of the facts, and the results of the assessment if the report involves the owner, operator, staff member, or household member of the program.

This concludes my testimony. I am available to answer any questions you might have.