

Testimony
House Bill 1144 – Department of Human Services
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Nething, Chairman
February 18, 2009

Chairman Nething, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Jennifer Witham, Director of Information Technology Services of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide information on the change proposed to section 50-06-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to information confidentiality.

The proposed North Dakota Century Code change regarding information confidentiality arose during the current implementation of the Master Client Index project. The Master Client Index stores client demographic information and resolves client identities across multiple data sources. Sharing client demographic information aids in the resolution of identities that will decrease duplicate case creation and aid in case management and client service. This technology will be used by Department of Human Services programs, including the Decision Support Services (research) team, and other state agencies.

This clarification to the Century Code would ensure appropriate use of client demographic information for participating programs and agencies contained in the Master Client Index.

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