

**TESTIMONY
House BILL 1110
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES
JUDY LEE, CHAIRMAN
March 2, 2005**

Chairman Lee and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Paul Ronningen, Director, Children and Family Services, Department of Human Services. I am here today to present testimony regarding Senate Bill 1110. The Department supports the passage of this bill.

This bill was introduced to request a continuation of the moratorium placed on the expansion of residential bed capacity and was set at the number of beds licensed as of June 30, 2003. (See Attachment A for a listing of the current residential treatment centers (RTC) and their licensed bed capacity, and Attachment B for a listing of the current residential child care facility (RCCF) and their licensed bed capacity.)

The North Dakota Department of Human Services is currently working with residential facilities within North Dakota to identify service gaps, such as sexual offenders treatment, for youth who are placed out of state.

We are also in the process of developing a tool to measure appropriate levels of care at entry into the foster care system as well as progress in treatment. This tool will assist us in placing a youth at the appropriate level of care.

Given the current number of beds and the efforts that are on-going to assure appropriate utilization, the Department supports the extension of the moratorium through July 31, 2007.

Thank you. I would be willing to answer any questions the committee may have.

ATTACHMENT A

Residential Treatment Centers Number of Beds Available		
	As of 6/30/03	As of 12/31/04
Ruth Meiers RTC, Grand Forks, ND	12	12
Dakota Boys Ranch RTC, Minot, ND	16	16
Luther Hall RTC, Fargo, ND	16	16
Pride – Manchester RTC, Bismarck, ND	8	8
Dakota Boys Ranch RTC, Fargo, ND	16	16
Western Plains RTC, Bismarck, ND	16	16
Total RTC Beds	84	84

ATTACHMENT B

Residential Child Care Facilities Number of Beds Available		
	As of 6/30/03	As of 12/31/04
Home on the Range, Sentinel Butte, ND	79	79
Red River Victory Ranch, Fargo, ND	8	0 *
Harmony House, Devils Lake, ND	7	7
Dakota Boys Ranch – RCCF, Minot, ND	39	39
DBR Minot Community Youth Home	12	12
Dakota Boys Ranch, Fargo Youth Home	10	10
New Outlooks, Devils Lake, ND	10	10
Prairie Learning Center, Raleigh, ND	50	50
Eckert Youth Homes, Williston, ND	16	16
Charles Hall Youth Services, Bismarck, ND	27	27
Safe Home – Prairie Harvest Foundation, Grand Forks, ND	8	8
Oppen Home, Minot, ND	6	7
Centre, Inc., Grand Forks, ND	8	8
Dakota Boys Ranch, Fargo Safe Home	8	8
Total Group/Residential Beds	288	281

* Red River Victory Ranch, Fargo, ND closed 7/1/03