

**Testimony**  
**SB 2359 – Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**February 5, 2007**

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Julie Hoffman, Administrator of Adoption Services for the ND Department of Human Services. Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate in providing amendments to SB 2359. The following will explain the changes offered by the Department. I have discussed these changes with the Chairman and Director of St. Gianna's, the Director of the Perry Center, the Department of Health and the State Fire Marshall. These changes will allow the statute to more accurately reflect the current business practice of the facilities.

Firstly, we have removed any references to the Maternity Homes providing medical treatment, nursing service or delivery/birthing services. Many years ago, Maternity Homes did have physicians and nurses on staff and deliver babies. Currently, the Maternity Homes facilitate their residents obtaining their health care services through local physicians, clinics and hospitals. They do not wish to provide medical services or be considered a provider of medical services.

Secondly, we have added reference to the state fire marshals office (or their designee) in Section 5, consistent with our practice to have each Maternity Home undergo a fire safety inspection during each licensure period.

Lastly, we have allowed for a possible two-year license, consistent with our statutory licensure periods for child placing agencies.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.