

**Engrossed House Bill 1206 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 8, 2017**

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Julie Hoffman, Administrator of Adoption Services for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide testimony regarding Engrossed House Bill 1206.

Engrossed House Bill 1206 seeks to streamline the process of adoption for certain relatives adopting a related child. The Department supports the intent of this Bill. Recommendations made by the Department in the House Committee have been incorporated into the Engrossed Bill with one minor exception, for which I offer an amendment today. I have had discussions with the primary sponsor of this Bill, Representative McWilliams to discuss the Department's recommendations.

Section 1 of Engrossed House Bill 1206, page 2, lines 7 through 9 would make the definition of "relative" in NDCC 14-15, the Uniform Adoption Code, consistent with the definition of relative in Section 2 of this Bill (page 2, lines 1 and 2).

Section 3 of Engrossed House Bill 1206 would create a new protocol for licensed child placing agencies that are providing a report to the court for an adoption of a related child, when it is required by NDCC Chapter 14-15.1. The [Department's proposed amendment](#) would add other adults living in the adoptive family home to the requirements for criminal background check on page 2, line 25. This is consistent with our practice in all other types of adoption.

The Department concurs with the remainder of Engrossed House Bill 1206.

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