

**Testimony  
Health Services Interim Committee  
October 9, 2014  
North Dakota Department of Health**

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Health Services Interim Committee. My name is Kirby Kruger, and I am the Section Chief for the Medical Services Section of the North Dakota Department of Health. The Medical Services Section consists of the Forensic Examiner's Office and the Division of Disease Control. I am here today to provide an estimate of the costs for the state of North Dakota to enter into a contract with an out-of-state laboratory to cover all quantified toxicology testing for state forensic examination. Currently the State Forensic Examiner sends samples for qualitative drug and toxicology testing to the State Crime Laboratory. Those samples in which drugs or toxins are detected are then sent to NMS Laboratory in Pennsylvania for quantified analysis.

This estimate includes toxicology testing being requested by:

- The State Forensic Examiner's office
- The University of North Dakota Pathology Dept.
- All county coroners

The estimate for the entire state to contract for forensic, quantitative toxicology testing by an out-of-state laboratory is \$ 93,855 for the biennium.

The estimate is broken down as follows:

Forensic Examiners Office	\$ 46,855
UND Pathology Dept.	\$ 40,000
Cass County	\$ 2,000
Other Counties	\$ 5,000

As a note, annual expenditures on toxicology testing requested by the State Forensic Examiner and conducted by outside laboratories increased from \$ 3,501 in 2003 to \$33,686 in 2013.

Thank you and I would be happy to address questions at this time.