

**2015 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1285**

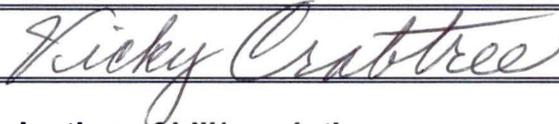
# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
1/21/2015  
Job #22293

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Provide an appropriation to the department of commerce to provide grants to organizations and provide domestic violence shelters.

## Minutes:

Testimonies 1-4

Chairman Weisz opened the hearing on HB 1285.

Rep. Jon Nelson: From District 14 introduced and supported HB 1285. There is an acute need of shelters across the state. You will hear from some communities are planning to build. It is structured so there is \$2.00 of local funding for \$1.00 of state grant funding. For those communities that are under 10,000 in population it is a \$1.00 for \$1.00. I asked what needs to be done in the next 2 years and that is where the \$2 million number came from. Williston and Dickinson are primary need areas. Devils Lake is in need and Grand Forks is under construction. The funding mechanism may not be perfect not knowing where the budget is headed. I think you will get an overview of what is needed in the state.

Rep. Porter: Do you know inside of the Health Dept. and DHS what funding level is available for domestic violence shelters?

Rep. J. Nelson: The governor has \$500,000 in his budget and there is some grant funding. This is a bricks and motor bill not programs.

Chairman Weisz: Are you aware of there being any funding in the budget that does apply to the physical plant?

Rep. J. Nelson: I'm not aware that there is. My understanding at this point it is all programmatic.

Rep. Fehr: Is this to replace existing facilities or add on additional facilities?

Rep. J. Nelson: There are a number of shelters that are full so they might need an addition. Devils Lake does not have a shelter and would need a new one built.

Rep. Fehr: Will an overview be provided to us on the plan of which facilities and whether it is new or an addition?

Rep. J. Nelson: I'm sure that is doable.

Janelle Moos: Executive Director of CAWS ND testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #1)

18:26

Rep. Mooney: Do you have 24/7 staffing?

Moos: Absolutely.

Rep. Mooney: I would imagine your positions are non-benefitted as well, correct?

Moos: Most are non-benefitted positions.

Rep. Mooney: I would assume that the shelters have to have a strong working relationship with the law enforcement as far as security.

Moos: We have a strong partnership with law enforcement. They are the first ones we call. All of our facilities have cameras.

Rep. Hofstad: Is there any collaboration with DHS?

Moos: It depends on the community you live. The core services that all the shelters offer are crisis intervention, shelter and we have counselors on staff. The larger communities will have access to more additional services. We use DHS services.

Chairman Weisz: Can you explain your cost? You said 71 victims sheltered at a cost of \$1,420. Is that per person?

Moos: Per night. I have a spread sheet I can share with the entire committee that outlines all our shelter costs.

Rep. Porter: Does it show the income sources across the state on that spread sheet?

Moos: I do have a separate spread sheet that outlines both the federal and state funding sources that are available specifically to our crisis centers. In the Health Dept. budget there is about \$1.7 million over the biennium that is distributed among the 20 crisis centers and that is to support core services. Some of the situations we deal with can be very lethal. In the past 35 years at least have of the homicides have been domestic violence related.

Rep. Mooney: Do you have the average length of stay?

Moos: It would vary by community. Most shelters use to have a 30 day maximum, but they had to get rid of that because they can't move folks out. In Dickinson they had a resident

there for almost 18 months to 2 years because they had no place to go. I can get that information for you.

27:15

Dena Filler: Executive Director of Domestic Violence Crisis Center in Minot, ND testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #2)

34:00

Jim Knudsen: Member of the Program Board for Domestic Violence Crisis Center in Minot, ND testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #3)

39:56

Rep. Mooney: Going forward with your new facility, I believe the human trafficking needs are different than the domestic abuse. Is some of that being taken into account or would that be a separate identity?

Knudsen: It is a different clientele and puts stress on our staff. More training is needed. Fortunately, now our facility can accommodate that different type of clientele.

Rep. Mooney: I'm assuming the previous facility would have made it difficult.

Knudsen: Impossible.

41:38

Heather Ingman: A staff member out of Dickinson for the domestic violence crisis center testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #4)

47:25

Rita Ennon: Director of the Dickinson Area Public Library and also President for the Board of Directors for the Domestic Violence and Crisis Center in Dickinson. My children and I lived in a shelter 10 years ago. The 5 of us lived in one bedroom for 6 months. It is difficult to live in a shelter when you have to share one bedroom with all the other families trying to get ready for work and the children ready for school. They sometimes have to put people on a couch to sleep, but productive at work can you be when you are sleeping on a couch night after night. Many in victims are working and they are trying to get to a place where they and their family can be productive and contributing members of the community. My children are all out of school and are productive working members in society. They also volunteer somewhere or another. I have one graduating soon from college and one graduating this fall. We live in our own homes and work hard to support ourselves. That is what the people we help want to do. Our dream in Dickinson when we build a larger shelter is that two families do not have to share the same bedroom; and to have many more bathrooms. You have the statistics that show you how much the traffic and needs have increased. I don't know if you have how much our donations have increased in-kind and monetary.

Chairman Weisz: Can you get that information for us?

Ennon: Yes I can.

52:00

Bruce Burkett: Spokesperson for the ND Peace Officers Association testified in support of the bill. The objective of the law enforcement is to not have any victims continue on. The domestic abuse calls that come in have a response from a police officer or a deputy sheriff. Generally two officers will respond because it usually is not a safe environment. In smaller towns a peace officer has to respond alone and handle the situation which puts risk to the officer. If this bill goes forward and they are able to produce more shelter locations, the risk of having repeat calls to that same location is going to go down. It will probably increase the chance of a successful change from the behavior. We have three sheriffs here and a chief of police in the audience today you might have questions for.

54:46

Rep. Mooney: Is the protocol when there are children to remove anyone from the environment if there is a danger?

Burkett: An officer can make an arrest when there is physical evidence of violence. They would remove the perpetrator out of there. Other agencies would get involved if necessary.

Rep. Mooney: Coordination has to take place between different agencies to make sure individuals are safe?

Burkett: Oh sure.

NO OPPOSITION

Chairman Weisz closed the hearing on HB 1285.

# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
2/9/2015  
23517

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce to provide grants to organizations and provide domestic violence shelters.

## Minutes:

Amendment #1

Chairman Weisz: Opened the hearing. I don't have the actual amendments, but I make the suggestion that the committee discusses them. Currently the bill is pulling 2 million dollars out of the, almost depleted, SIF fund. I think we are all aware that there is 1.1 billion in the Surge bill. The amendment I am having drafted would propose that the 2 million dollars be pulled out of the surge fund. We can't just tack an amendment on to the Surge bill because it is not in our committee. If we send the bill out as-is, it won't be effective.

Rep. Fehr: The Surge bill does include roads now. Is there a way of putting like a trigger in?

Chairman Weisz: you can put a trigger in, but if they accept the trigger it is likely that it may not kick in.

Rep. D. Anderson: How much was in the surge fund again?

Chairman Weisz: it was at least 1.15 billion dollars to 1.2 billion dollars. The bulk of it is allocated for roads, and the rest is not really specified. The problem is finding the right amount for the trigger so it is not too low / high.

Vice-Chair Hofstad: I think you have a good idea here. We have some real short falls in the infrastructure out west, and this bill looks good. I will definitely support this type of an amendment.

Rep. Porter: Appropriations is cutting every building project. There will be no building projects as we go into crossover. This bill in its current form would not see the light of day if it went to appropriations. The only chance it has would be to tie it into already existing funding. Then it is still highly at risk because all other building projects from the governor are being pulled out.

Rep. Mooney: Does the language of this bill get moved into the Surge fund? Is that the idea?

Chairman Weisz: No, this bill will stand alone. There would be legislative intent that appropriations put this money as part of the Surge funding package.

Rep. Mooney: Is there any value of giving it the threshold value of say the \$4,900 and see what the oil prices are going to do?

Chairman Weisz: I've already stretched this once. I think there are cases where that method made sense, but if we truly want this funding then there has to be a source. I give it a 2% chance of it passing as-is.

Rep. Oversen: Would it limit it to oil producing countries, or would it leave it open.

Chairman Weisz: It will leave it open. This is simply my suggestion to make it work.

Rep. Rich Becker: We have a good chance to get some money if we go forward with the amendment.

Rep. Mooney: Before we roll into votes on an amendment, moving this amendment in effect kills this bill and move it into the surge as a whole, correct?

Chairman Weisz: No, this bill stays alive and stays as its own bill. It needs to pass appropriations they may amend the surge bill. If they don't, then there is no money for it.

Rep. D. Anderson: It is my understanding that there are not a whole lot of strings attached to the money that is going to the cities. So if they really had a need, some of the money could be shifted from their allotment for centers like this.

Chairman Weisz: Well, the bill from the Senate didn't have a lot of restrictions, but my understanding is that it will be pretty tight by the time it comes out of the house. But on the initial bill, you are right about its openness. I know the house wants it trimmed up. That is the actual amendment, but if we adopt it then we have to delete the language in lines 4 and 5. You would have to take out the part about SIIF fund too.

Rep. Hofstad: I move to pass the amendment 001 and further amend to move 4 "there is" to line 6 "appropriated".

Chairman Weisz: Actually, we would keep "there is" in on line 4.

Rep Porter: Seconds the motion.

Rep. Mooney: The surge has an emergency clause in it, so if all of this fell through does this then move this up to an emergency clause status as well?

Chairman Weisz: The bill itself would be. But the dates would still apply.

House Human Services Committee  
HB 1285  
February 9, 2015  
Page 3

Rep. Fehr: Isn't all that money already SIIF funds?

Chairman Weisz: That is correct at this point.

Voice Vote: Motion passes

Rep. Hofstad: I move a Do Pass on HB 1285 as amended and re-referred to appropriations.

Rep. Damschen: Seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote: 13 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent.

HB 1285 Passes as amended and is re-referred to appropriations.

Carrier is Rep. Hofstad

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

Page 1, line 2, after "shelters" insert "and to provide a statement of legislative intent"

Page 1, after line 16, insert:

**"SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - FUNDING FROM EARLY DISTRIBUTIONS.** It is the intent of the sixty-fourth legislative assembly that funding for grants provided in section 1 of this Act be considered as part of the funding provided in Senate Bill No. 2103."

Renumber accordingly

*J*  
*2/9/15*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

Page 1, line 1, after the first "provide" insert "a statement of legislative intent; and to provide"

Page 1, line 5, remove "out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund in the state"

Page 1, line 6 remove "treasury, not otherwise appropriated,"

Page 1, after line 16, insert:

**"SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - FUNDING FROM EARLY DISTRIBUTIONS.** It is the intent of the sixty-fourth legislative assembly that funding for grants provided in section 1 of this Act be considered as part of the funding provided in Senate Bill No. 2103."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-9-15  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1285**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 01001

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Hofstad Seconded By Rep. Porter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz	<i>Vote</i>		Rep. Mooney		
Vice-Chair Hofstad			Rep. Muscha		
Rep. Bert Anderson			Rep. Oversen		
Rep. Dick Anderson					
Rep. Rich S. Becker	<i>Motion</i>				
Rep. Damschen					
Rep. Fehr					
Rep. Kiefert					
Rep. Porter					
Rep. Seibel	<i>Carried</i>				

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:  
*also move 4 "there is" to line 6 "appropriated"*

Date: 2-9-15  
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1285**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: .01001

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Hofstad Seconded By Rep. Damschen

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz	✓		Rep. Mooney	✓	
Vice-Chair Hofstad	✓		Rep. Muscha	✓	
Rep. Bert Anderson	✓		Rep. Oversen	✓	
Rep. Dick Anderson	✓				
Rep. Rich S. Becker	✓				
Rep. Damschen	✓				
Rep. Fehr	✓				
Rep. Kiefert	✓				
Rep. Porter	✓				
Rep. Seibel	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Hofstad

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1285: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1285 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after the first "provide" insert "a statement of legislative intent; and to provide"

Page 1, line 5, remove "out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund in the state"

Page 1, line 6 remove "treasury, not otherwise appropriated,"

Page 1, after line 16, insert:

**"SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - FUNDING FROM EARLY DISTRIBUTIONS.** It is the intent of the sixty-fourth legislative assembly that funding for grants provided in section 1 of this Act be considered as part of the funding provided in Senate Bill No. 2103."

Re-number accordingly

**2015 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1285**

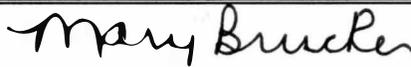
# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
2/13/2015  
23867

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

The department of commerce to provide grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelter.

## **Minutes:**

No attachments

**Representative Robin Weisz spoke as chairman of Human Services:** This bill is for bricks and mortar. We have some huge crises across the state; our domestic violence shelters are being overwhelmed. We had testimony where there were 16 families sharing one bathroom. Your committee came up with a real creative source for the funding and we realized that probably isn't going to fly. I think it is a result of the energy, not directly, but it is affecting the whole state with increased population, transients, and disrupted families all of which increase the problems. The communities have to deal with them.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** This is just for bricks and mortar?

**Representative Weisz:** Yes. I can go through all the data and the dollars available for services. We had a ton of testimony across the state from virtually every facility.

**Chairman Delzer:** How much could they do with \$1 or \$2 million? Did they give you a list of who they thought they would give it to and what it would be used for?

**Representative Weisz:** It would require a match so it's going to go a lot further than just the \$2 million. It's not like we're building a hospital, they are just building housing. This is for Minot, Dickinson and others. The match is twice as much in the larger communities.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Can you please leave a copy.

**Representative Skarphol:** Do you have a list of the cities and the numbers in each city that they believe they need to have services for?

**Representative Weisz:** I don't have the actual request from each community for the dollars; I have each community and what they are looking at.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Did you ask them for their budgets?

**Representative Weisz:** No we did not. We didn't get into the details of each individual facility.

**Chairman Delzer:** Did you get into the Department of Commerce and what we have in there already for domestic violence or DHS?

**Representative Weisz:** Yes we did. All of those dollars are for services. This is for bricks and mortar.

**Representative Skarphol:** Was there a different dollar amount initially in this bill?

**Representative Weisz:** No there wasn't.

**Representative Monson:** I'm thinking about the facility in the three counties in my corner and they are renting state property. Representative Damschen, Senator Campbell, and I looked at those facilities and will something like this be used by this organization who rent state property?

**Representative Weisz:** I can't really answer that since being state property that question didn't come up. The Department of Commerce has the ability to set the guidelines that the intent would be flexible enough that it could be used for that.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Did you ask why they aren't allowing renting property in it?

**Representative Weisz:** You mean that money could be used for rental on the property? That question didn't come up and there was no testimony of that nature. I don't think that the intent would be used for rental.

**Chairman Delzer:** Oh no it says it can.

**Representative Weisz:** I can guarantee you that the committee would be more than open to adding the word "renting." I believe all of the facilities that testified had either nonprofits that owned a facility of some sort that either needed renovation or room for expansion.

**Representative Boening:** Do the communities that are looking for these have money available? Do they have to fundraise it?

**Representative Weisz:** We heard from at least two of them that they would come up with the match.

**Representative Nelson:** There are five communities that are in the most acute need for building are included in the funding of this bill; Grand Forks, Minot, Williston, Dickinson, and Devils Lake. Devils Lake had a domestic violence shelter that was owned by someone else and they reused it for something so that community no longer has a shelter. There are construction plans but some are farther along than other but that is the need that was established for the next two years that this appropriation was based on. Devils Lake requires the \$2 community match to the \$1 state match.

**Representative Streyle:** It's pretty clear that when this problem started it was 2011. In Minot it's a huge problem.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** You could say some of the Minot stuff could have been from the flooding impact and not just energy.

**Representative Weisz:** Part of Minot's problem is the flooding and they also lost housing from the flood.

# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
2/20/2015  
24227

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Donna Whelan*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide a statement of legislative intent; an appropriation to the department of commerce and grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelters.

## Minutes:

*1 Attachment*

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** This bill deals with grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelters. We have had some discussion with a number of people. This issue is in the western part of the state especially with the passage of the surge funding. We are not so sure that some of those communities should be able to handle some of that on their own. We have some concerns about Devils Lake and Grand Forks to some degree. The amendment changes it and makes it one to one for \$250,000 in Devils Lake and three to one for \$400,000 in Grand Forks. Handed out amendment 15.0760.02001.

**Representative Nelson:** That is exactly what it does. In the original bill there were five cities identified. This would fund two of those cities and there is a conversation that we will continue with the senate majority leader next week to see if there is some funding remaining for the other three cities.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** This is out of the SIIF fund.

**Representative Nelson:** We did mention to Legislative Counsel that it was general fund but that didn't get switched over, I would further amend to move it.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Just leave it for now. But I guess if you have a discussion with Senator Wardner and you try to do something in the impact dollars, you might consider whether or not they would allow that to cover this as well.

**Representative Nelson: Chairman Jeff Delzer:** We will make that attempt.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Is there any further discussion on the amendment that is before us?

**Representative Nelson: I move amendment 15.0760.02001 to HB 1285.**

**Representative Pollert: seconded.**

**Voice vote taken: All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

**Chairman Jeff Delzer: We have an amended bill before us.**

**Representative Nelson: I move Do Pass as Amended HB 1285.**

**Representative Skarphol: seconded.**

**Chairman Jeff Delzer: Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The clerk will call the roll.**

**A Roll Call Vote was taken. Yes: 21 No: 1 Absent: 1. Motion carried.**

**Representative Pollert: will carry the bill.**

*JN*  
2/23/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

Page 1, line 1, remove "provide a statement of legislative intent; and to"

Page 1, line 6, after "appropriated" insert "out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated,"

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$2,000,000" with "\$650,000"

Page 1, line 10, remove "establish"

Page 1, replace lines 11 through 16 with "provide a grant of up to \$400,000 to a qualifying organization serving a community in a non-oil-producing county with a population exceeding 10,000 based on the most recent decennial census. The department shall require three dollars of nonstate funds for each one dollar of the grant funds awarded up to \$400,000. The department shall provide a grant of up to \$250,000 to a qualifying organization serving a community in a non-oil-producing county with a population of 10,000 or fewer based on the most recent decennial census. The department shall require one dollar of nonstate funds for each one dollar of the grant funds awarded of up to \$250,000."

Page 1, remove lines 17 through 19

Renumber accordingly



Date: 2/24/15

Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**ROLL CALL VOTES**  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1285

House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0740.02001

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By: Nelson Seconded By: Skarphol

Representatives	Yes	No	Absent	Representatives	Yes	No	Absent	Representatives	Yes	No	Absent
Chairman Jeff Delzer	✓			Representative Nelson	✓			Representative Boe	✓		
Vice Chairman Keith Kempenich	✓			Representative Pollert	✓			Representative Glassheim	✓		
Representative Bellew			A	Representative Sanford	✓			Representative Guggisberg	✓		
Representative Brandenburg	✓			Representative Schmidt	✓			Representative Hogan	✓		
Representative Boehning	✓			Representative Silbernagel	✓			Representative Holman	✓		
Representative Dosch	✓			Representative Skarphol	✓						
Representative Kreidt	✓			Representative Streyle	✓						
Representative Martinson	✓			Representative Thoreson	✓						
Representative Monson	✓			Representative Vigasaa	✓						
	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

**Totals**

(Yes)	<u>21</u>
No	<u>1</u>
Absent	<u>1</u>
Grand Total	<u>23</u>

Floor Assignment: Pollert

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: \_\_\_\_\_

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1285, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (21 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1285 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, remove "provide a statement of legislative intent; and to"

Page 1, line 6, after "appropriated" insert "out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated,"

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Page 1, remove lines 17 through 19

Renumber accordingly

**2015 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1285**

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee  
Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
3/9/2015

Recording job number 24503

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide an appropriation to the Department of Commerce to provide grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelters

## Minutes:

Attach #1: Testimony by Janelle Moos  
Attach #2: 2009-2013 Shelter Facts Sheet

**Rep. Jon Nelson**, District 14, introduced HB 1285 to the Senate Human Services Committee. This provides funding for domestic violence shelters. There are 5 shelters in need: Williston, Dickinson, Devils Lake, Minot and Grand Forks. The Devils Lake facility lost the lease and is in desperate need. Devils Lake would fall under the 1-to-1 category for funds, In Grand Forks, city of 10,000 or above, local dollars 2-to-1. Oil impact may provide relief for Minot, Williston, and Dickinson.

**Janelle Moos**, Executive Director of CAWS North Dakota, testified IN FAVOR of HB 1285 (attach #1) (5:33-9:22) Ms. Moos also provided 2009-2013 Shelter Facts Sheet (attach #2) This bill originally focused on 5 priority areas in the state. The communities most impacted by oil development are at capacity or overcapacity.

**Senator Warner** what would you estimate the amount of time they stay in a shelter? Are there any transitional plans to transition out? Are there any applications for human trafficking victims?

**Moos:** Minot has a 30-day maximum stay and 2 transitional living units on their campus, so they got the crisis center, the emergency center and two 4 plexes. They can move victims from emergency shelter to one of the transitional housing units. Bismarck, Grand Forks and Fargo have similar setups. Dickinson does not have transitional housing because of the shortage of affordable housing, and their length of stay is different it may be 2 years. The wait lists are incredibly long for low cost housing. Shelters across the state are seeing human trafficking victims; they come in as sexual abuse victims. We do not have additional funding for them and staff has limited training on these victims.

**Senator Warner** for domestic violence and trafficking, is there mandated reporting to law enforcement?

**Moos:** most of our programs have a strong relationship with law enforcement. They often call an advocate so a victim can at least have a conversation if they choose to. We rely on law enforcement for safety. Majority of shelters have security systems like cameras, especially with human trafficking victims. If they are pimp controlled. The relationship with law enforcement is very important.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen:** is there any shelter for men in the state?

**Chairman Judy Lee:** New Life Center in Fargo.

**Moos:** our shelters provide service to both male and female. If they can't accommodate, they will provide shelter in a hotel, they can access every other resources that folks living in a shelter do, so they can come back for support groups, advocacy, meals, etc...

**Chairman Judy Lee** part of the rub in the shelters is once boys are age 12, they can't live in the shelter. There are a significant number of homeless teenagers. Not just in Fargo, but statewide.

**Moos:** all our shelters co-locate with family. We are trying to provide more training to the shelters staff.

**Bryan Quigley**, Director, Mountrail Social Services. Domestic violence has reached an all-time high in oil counties. The counties are spending money on general assistance for housing, usually one week for domestic violence. Counties are trying to do what they can, but it is limited. I am in favor of this bill.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen:** when you put these folks up for a week, does the state voucher state rate or do you submit the bill?

**Quigley:** it is all county dollars, based on the state rate.

**Chairman Judy Lee:** simple way to solve the problem, but it costs money.

**Bruce Burkett**, testified IN FAVOR. This benefits not only people being served by shelter, but also law enforcement. Dangerous situation when law enforcement responds to domestic dispute. He provided examples as police officer, game and fish warden. Domestic violence can happen anywhere. He understands the needs in Devils Lake.  
(22:00)

OPPOSITION TO HB 1285  
No opposing testimony

NEUTRAL TO HB 1285  
No neutral testimony

Closed Public Hearing

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
3/17/2015  
24978

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill to provide an appropriation to the Department of Commerce to provide grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelters

## Minutes:

No attachments

The Senate Human Services Committee reviewed HB 1285 in committee on March 17, 2015.

**Chairman Judy Lee** recapped the bill.

**Senator Warner** moved Re-engrossed HB 1285 DO PASS and Re-Refer to the Appropriations Committee. The motion was seconded by **V. Chairman Oley Larsen**. No Discussion.

## Roll Call Vote:

6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion passes.

**Senator Warner** will carry HB 1285 to the floor.

**Senator Dever** pointed out that this bill started at \$2,000,000 and reduced in House Appropriations to \$650,000, but an important point is that the appropriation came from the SIF fund, and not from the general fund, so the dollars should not be impacted by the price of oil. It is existing money.

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1285**

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Sen. Warner    Seconded By Sen. Larsen

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee (Chairman)	✓		Senator Tyler Axness	✓	
Senator Oley Larsen (V-Chair)	✓		Senator John M. Warner	✓	
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	✓				
Senator Dick Dever	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Warner

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1285, as reengrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1285 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.**

**2015 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1285**

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee  
Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
3/26/2015  
Job # 25452

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Robinson for Alice Helzer*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act for an appropriation to the Department of Commerce to provide grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelters.

## Minutes:

Testimony # 1

**Chairman Holmberg** called the committee to order on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 9:30 am in regards to HB 1285. All committee members were present. Tammy Dolan, OMB, and Sean Smith, Legislative Council, were also present. The bill will be sent to the subcommittee dealing with the Dept. of Commerce: Chairman Holmberg, V. Chairman Krebsbach and Senator Robinson.

**Representative Nelson, District 14:** HB 1285 is a bill to fund bricks and mortar domestic violence shelters across the state. The original bill had prioritized 5 facilities that have acute needs in this biennium: Dickinson, Williston, Minot, Devils Lake and Grand Forks. On the house side there were several attempts made to fund all five. The bill you see today funds the 2 outside of oil country. The Devils Lake situation is particularly challenging. They lost the shelter they've been using the last few years because the owner would no longer lease the building to them. That community can't support the same cost share that is being asked in this bill for other communities. There is a one to one match for Devils Lake. They are specified as one of the communities to receive funding for the shelters. The other one is GF. There is a larger community ownership cost share for GF than for Devil Lake because it is a larger community. The other 3 communities are included in HB 1176 which has the funding for them. All 5 communities are still included at the end of the day. To get the budget constraints satisfied and move forward through the house is why you see the bill in the shape it is in today. The policy committee was in agreement. We feel we can complete the task of building these facilities protecting women and children and going forward with more public safety.

**Senator Carlisle** asked who the other three in the other bill were. **Rep. Nelson** replied they were Minot, Dickinson and Williston.

**Chairman Holmberg** wanted to know why the money goes through the department of commerce.

**Rep. Nelson:** Because it bricks and mortar. There's a history there. The Commerce Dept. has done a good job of facilitating those types of grants and meeting the needs of the local match. It seemed like a natural place for this.

**Senator Gary Lee:** In the 400,000 you do list organizations plural and the 250 it's singular organization. You mentioned the communities that would fit that category but if some other community came in meeting those criteria they could apply for that grant as well, other than, say, Devils Lake?

**Rep. Nelson:** It was designed specifically for those communities because that was the process that was vetted before the session started. I think it would be rather difficult for another community to fit within those guidelines but I can't say it is absolutely true.

**Senator Gary Lee:** So it doesn't necessarily preclude someone else but that may be the only city that fits into the group.

**Rep. Nelson:** As you well know, in legislation you can't name a city but often times you can direct funding or grants to an area. Because of the constraints written into law, is it tight enough where only one area would fit? I would say it isn't that tight and there is that possibility. The legislative intent is that DL is that community because that is where the greatest need is.

**Senator Gary Lee:** When we heard the Commerce before with this section talking about homeless shelters, there were other communities here - Jamestown, Fargo, etc. that were supporting and had these kind of issues as well. Would they be able to participate if they met the criteria?

**Rep. Nelson:** This doesn't complete the task. We know there are needs in every community. That was the responsible work that was done by the stake holder groups - to drill down to where the most acute need was. I don't have the specific knowledge of those communities that came in and testified and sat in on those hearings. The 5 communities that were named certainly weren't meant to be the only ones that had these needs. We will see continued needs. The communities need to step to the plate as well and provide some local funding, and that takes time.

**V. Chairman Krebsbach:** What was the original amount of your dollars in the first bill?

**Rep. Nelson:** \$2M and that was the needed appropriation to finish each one of those 5 facilities from the estimate we had. Like Representative Klein often says in his floor speeches "it's a good bill vote green".

**Senator Bekkedahl, District 1:** (A co-sponsor of this bill) There are needs in these communities. They are locally invested in this with the match requirements. They are not exclusively the only communities involved but they were identified as the ones with the most needs. I hope 1176 will pass in the current form as well. With the grants to the three oil communities, I can speak specifically to Williston. It is a small home that supports up to sometimes between 20-40 women and children on a nightly basis. The need is there. My

concern for my community, even though it isn't addressed in this bill, is in the short term it is going to get worse. I still support the bill and hope to get a favorable recommendation.

(12.45)

**Janelle Moos, Executive Director of CAWS of ND** testified in support of HB 1285 and provided written Testimony (Attachment #1). She stated their Coalition is a membership based organization that consists of 20 domestic violence and rape crisis centers that provide services to victims of domestic violence. She urged a do pass on this bill. (18.01)

**Chairman Holmberg** Closed the hearing. The bill will go to the subcommittee on commerce.

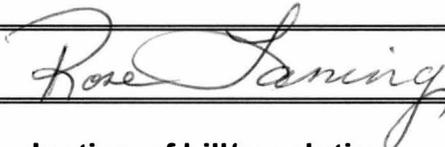
# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
3/31/2015  
Job # 25664

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A BILL for an Act for an appropriation to the Department of Commerce to provide grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelters.

## **Minutes:**

Legislative Council - Sean Smith  
OMB - Tammy Dolan

**Chairman Holmberg** called the sub-committee to order on HB 1282. **Senator Krebsbach** and **Senator Robinson** were also present.

**Chairman Holmberg:** Did you have anything in your budget?

**Justin Dever, Dept. of Commerce:** My understanding is that this money is for bricks and mortar. This portion is to 1176 and has money for three communities out west. This is for the portion that would be.....

**Chairman Holmberg:** for the rest of the sticks.

**Justin Dever, Dept. of Commerce:** In our budget, we do have homeless shelter grants which could be used by some of these same entities, but that money cannot be used for bricks and mortar. And we also have an emergency solutions grant which is federal funds. That can be used for some of these same type of agencies.

**Senator Robinson:** 1176 - is covering facilities in Williston, Minot and Dickinson? (yes)

**Justin Dever:** Those would be run through Oil and Gas Impact Grants and I think they would need to consult with Department of Commerce on those grants.

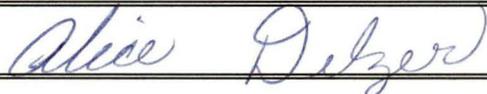
**Chairman Holmberg:** Are there any more questions? We will be meeting again and focus on just HB 1018. We will go from there.

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1285  
4/9/2015  
Job # 25985

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature	
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act for an appropriation to the Department of Commerce to provide grants to organizations that provide domestic violence shelters.

## Minutes:

No testimony submitted
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**Chairman Holmberg** called the committee to order on Thursday, April 09, 2015. All committee members were present. Sheila M. Sandness, Legislative Council and Nick Creamer, OMB, were also present.

**Chairman Holmberg:** Our subcommittee was going to recommend no change in the bill and send it back to the policy committee.

**Senator Robinson:** We discussed this issue. We felt strongly that we should leave the bill as it is. We though the case was made load and clear that there is a definite need here. We'd like to move the bill out as it is.

**Senator Robinson** moved a do pass on 1285. 2<sup>nd</sup> by V.Chairman Bowman.

**Chairman Holmberg:** Any discussion?

**Senator Sorvaag:** That would be an addition to the \$2M that was in the funding formula too, so we are going to be putting out over \$2.5M.

**Senator Robinson:** Right. These are for 3 locations that were left out. Here we are looking at Devils Lake and Grand Forks. We think the need has been clearly demonstrated and It is not going to get any better for some time unfortunately.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 13; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Senator Warner from Human Services will carry the bill. The hearing was closed on HB 1285.

Date: 4-9-15  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1285

Senate Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Robinson Seconded By Bowman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Holmberg	✓		Senator Heckaman	✓	
Senator Bowman	✓		Senator Mathern	✓	
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator O'Connell	✓	
Senator Carlisle	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Sorvaag	✓				
Senator G. Lee	✓				
Senator Kilzer	✓				
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Wanzek	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Human Serv.

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: Warner

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1285, as reengrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Reengrossed HB 1285 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2015 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1285**



#1

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## Testimony on HB 1285

House Human Services Committee

January 21, 2015

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Janelle Moos and I am the Executive Director of CAWS North Dakota. Our Coalition is a membership based organization that consists of 20 domestic violence and rape crisis centers that provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in all 53 counties and the reservations in North Dakota. I'm speaking this morning on their behalf, to provide you an overview of HB 1285, and to urge your support of the bill.

Safety is and always will be our first priority for victims of domestic violence. Shelter (or emergency housing) is an essential service that enables us to provide safety for victims fleeing violence. It was back in the 1970's when victims first started having conversations at kitchen tables about the violence they were experiencing in their marriages and it still is today.

Although we've moved away from "safe homes" that were often a bedroom in someone's basement to a more intricate network of shelters the services provided by these facilities offer victims and their children a safe and secure place to eat and sleep, talk to an advocate, and make critical decisions about what is best for them and their families. Although I'd like to say that victims should be able to be safe in their own homes the reality is many are not. It often takes victims up to 7 times to finally leave an abusive relationship and when they do choose to leave it is often to one of the shelters located in communities in North Dakota.

Our state has all but reached a crisis. Domestic violence shelters are at or above capacity; the facilities are old and in need of repair and in some communities have had to close due to accessibility and safety issues. The lack of affordable housing has also caused a strain resources and our ability to provide shelter to all victims. Up until recent years our shelters would be able to house a victim for up to 30 days but now length of stays are turning into 60 days to as long as 6 months or one year. And the number of victims that our shelters have to turn away due to lack of space is growing every day.

As you can see, HB 1285 appropriates funding from the strategic investments and improvement fund to the Department of Commerce to provide grants to domestic violence shelters to construct, renovate or purchase facilities to provide shelter to victims. Of the 20 crisis centers defined under Chapter 14-07.1-01 nine operate shelters that are located in Bismarck, Dickinson,

part of #1 HB 1285  
January 21, 2015

Williston, Beulah, Minot, Belcourt, Mandaree, Grafton and Grand Forks. Safe Alternatives for Abused Families in Devils Lake operated a shelter until about six months ago but had to close their doors because of accessibility and safety issues. Victims living in that six county region are being housed on a temporary (emergency) basis in hotels in Devils Lake or are being transported to a nearby shelter in Grand Forks, Grafton or Minot (if space is available). The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center in Fargo works in collaboration with the YWCA who provides shelter in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Of the nine locations listed above at least 5 are in need of a new shelter or to expand on the capacity of their current facility. Our shelters are funded primarily through direct federal grants or federal grants that are administered and passed through a state agency such as the Department of Health or the Department of Commerce. A smaller portion of their budgets include state general funds, foundation grants and local donations. The primary purpose of both the state and federal funds is for staffing, utilities, food, and other supplies such as household goods, clothing and toiletries. Federal and state funds restrict our shelters ability to build or renovate existing facilities so it leaves little if any funding in their budgets to meet the ever growing need for expansion.

As you can see from the handouts I've provided the number of shelter nights and the cost of sheltering domestic violence victims has increased dramatically over the last five years and not just in those counties most heavily impacted by oil and energy development. The need for more shelter is a statewide issue. For example, in Williston, where the population has exploded and crime rates continue to rise, the Family Crisis Shelter continues to operate a shelter with a capacity of 7 in the upstairs of an old house in the downtown area. As you can see from the handouts in 2009, there were 71 victims sheltered at the cost of \$1,420. By 2013, that number has doubled to 142 victims sheltered at the cost of \$4,260. Although costs have gone up budgets of these shelters have not increased to meet the need and therefore the programs are having to rely more heavily on donations and community support.

On the other side of the state in Grand Forks they were recently asked by the hospital to begin making plans to find a new place for their shelter because they had other plans for the property that the shelter is located on. They launched a capital campaign to build a new shelter that they expect to house 40 and cost an estimated \$2.2 million. In the past five years, there has been a 50% increase in number of nights sheltered; a 30% increase last year alone. Additionally, they've had a 125% increase in the need for overflow housing (hotels) because the shelter has been full.

part of #1 HB 1285

January 21, 2015

A private/public partnership is proposed in HB 1285 and is the most viable solution to assist in the construction or renovation of existing shelters. Dena Filler the director of the Domestic Violence Crisis Center in Minot and Heather Kelley from the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center in Dickinson are here this morning and plan to outline need in their community and their plans.

In closing, I can't stress enough the need for additional funding to support the expansion or construction of domestic violence shelters across the state. In order to allow our shelters the ability to continue to offer the safety victims need I urge you to look favorably upon HB 1285 and move a DO PASS recommendation.

Thank you.

#2

House Bill 1285

House Human Services

January 21, 2015

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dena Filler and I am the Executive Director of Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) in Minot, North Dakota. Our center provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Ward, McHenry, Pierce and Renville Counties. I am speaking this morning in support of HB 1285.

DVCC has provided emergency services for women and their children fleeing from violence since 1977. The emergency shelter opened in 1981. The original shelter was 4-bedrooms, 2 baths, with a laundry area, kitchen and family room. The shelter could house 15 individuals but served as many as 23 at one time.

Minot began feeling the impact of the oil boom in 2009-2010, and DVCC was not spared. The emergency shelter quickly became too small to meet the many needs and increasing numbers of victims seeking our services. The flood in 2011 compounded this problem by adding a new issue; water seepage in the basement. The constant seepage resulted in mold developing in the basement, which forced DVCC to discontinue using the basement for storage of clothing and donated items. Shelter staff was forced to store clothing items in totes under tarps on the back deck, which was commonly referred to as the "Tote City". Not only did this situation put extra strain on shelter staff, it was an insult to victims needing clothing for their children and themselves.

Along with straining our already crowded emergency shelter, the 2011 flood destroyed our two 4-plex transitional apartments. Eight families struggling to escape violent lives were forced to evacuate their homes which were permanently lost. DVCC was forced to shut down their transitional housing program until housing could be found or built.

With the continued influx of oil related jobs in the area and a rapidly expanding and diverse population, the need for DVCC services has never been greater. I have attached DVCC's statistics demonstrating the growth in services since 2006.

In the summer of 2012, DVCC broke ground on our New Beginnings Campus. This campus houses all of DVCC's facilities in one location. The cost of Phase 1 and 2 was \$3,269,522.00. (Phase 1 - \$1,645,350.00 and Phase 2 - \$1,624,172.00)

Phase 1 consisted of a new office building and the first 4-plex for the Transitional Living Program. DVCC moved into to our new office in January of 2013 and opened the first 4-plex in July of 2013.

|

The DVCC Board of Directors felt strongly that we needed to move ahead with the building of Phase 2, specifically the urgent need of a larger shelter. They voted to take on a construction loan up to \$900,000.00 while maintaining an active capital campaign.

Phase 2 consisted of a new emergency shelter, a second 4-plex for the Transitional Living Program and playground. DVCC broke ground on the second 4-plex and emergency shelter in May of 2013. The second 4-plex opened January of 2014 with the emergency shelter opening in April of 2014. The Minot Optimist Club took on the fundraising challenges for the playground, which will be constructed in the spring of 2015.

The new emergency shelter has ten bedrooms and can easily house 40 individuals. Using cribs and pull-out couches, we can sleep 50 to 60 individuals. There is a joint bathroom for every two bedrooms, and there are laundry facilities and family rooms on both floors, with the main floor being handicap accessible. The shelter also has a quiet room for women without children to enjoy. This room provides a calm, quiet atmosphere for women who may not be used to being around children. The shelter has a large dining room and commercial grade kitchen area to accommodate the greater number of victims and children, as well as a food pantry and storage area for clothing, donations, and supplies. The women from the Power of the Purse, a local giving group, sponsored the children's playroom, paying for the construction, decorating and provisions, making it very welcoming for children who are staying at the shelter. Victims and their children may stay at our shelter for up to 30 days.

DVCC was not eligible for any FEMA funding and has not received federal funding, and received less than \$20,000 in state funding, which was used for part of the site lighting costs. DVCC received grants from Otto Bremer Foundation and Margaret A. Cargill Foundation each in the amount of \$400,000.00 to help fund Phase 1. The Minot Area Community Foundation funded the second 4-plex in Phase 2. At this time, DVCC has raised \$2,580,952.00 through fundraisers, sale of property, grants, private individual gifts, business contributions and pledges.

This leaves DVCC short \$688,570.00 to complete funding for our New Beginning Campus.

House Bill No 1285 would assist DVCC to find additional funds for our building project. I urge a DO PASS on House Bill 1285.

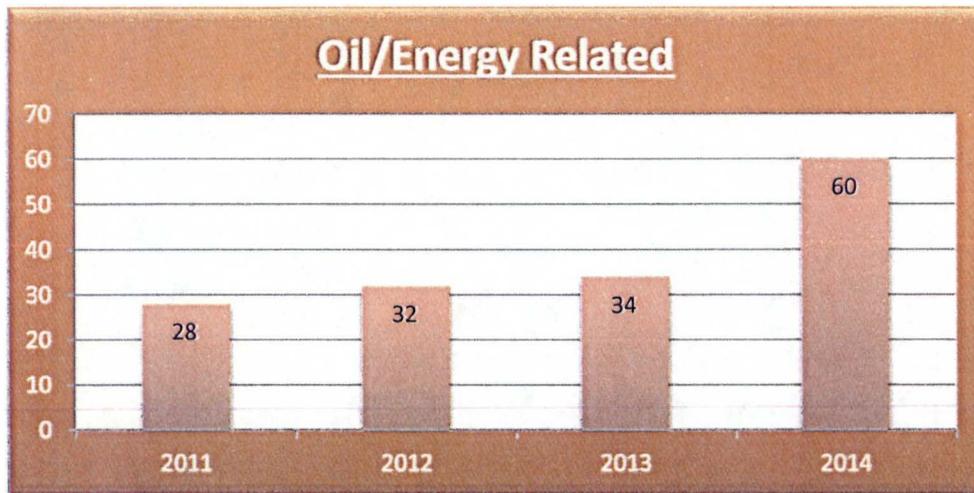
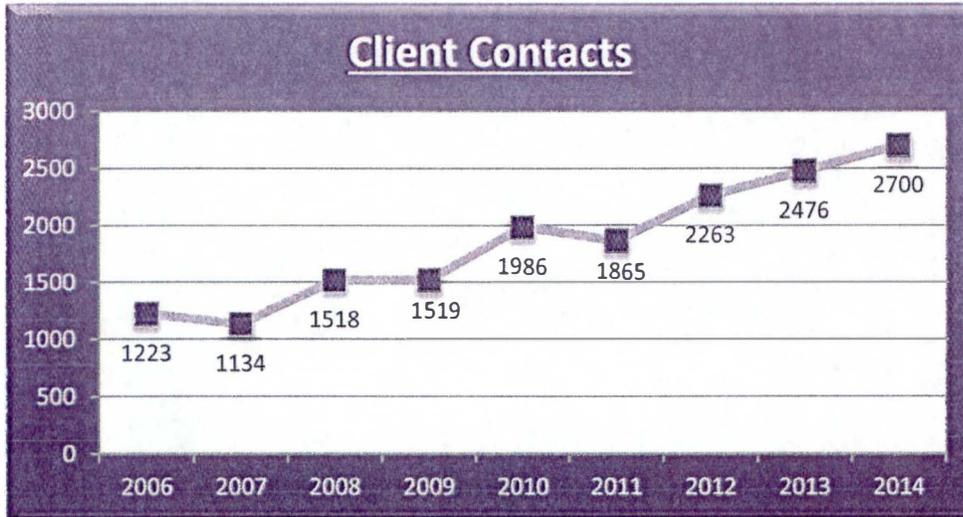
# Domestic Violence Crisis Center - Minot, ND 2006-2014

Mid-Year	Client Contacts	Oil/Energy	Sexual Assaults	Women Sheltered	Children Sheltered	Meals Provided	Crisis Calls
2006	1223	Unknown	38	121	95	7622	351
2007	1134	Unknown	39	130	132	7731	367
2008	1518	Unknown	69	125	117	6876	569
2009	1519	Unknown	68	113	108	7464	553
2010	1986	Unknown	82	116	90	6793	978
2011	1865	28	53	112	114	6777	923
2012	2263	32	74	167	137	10244	1220
2013	2476	34	80	212	169	15908	1420
2014	2700	60	73	294	203	18656	1399

%

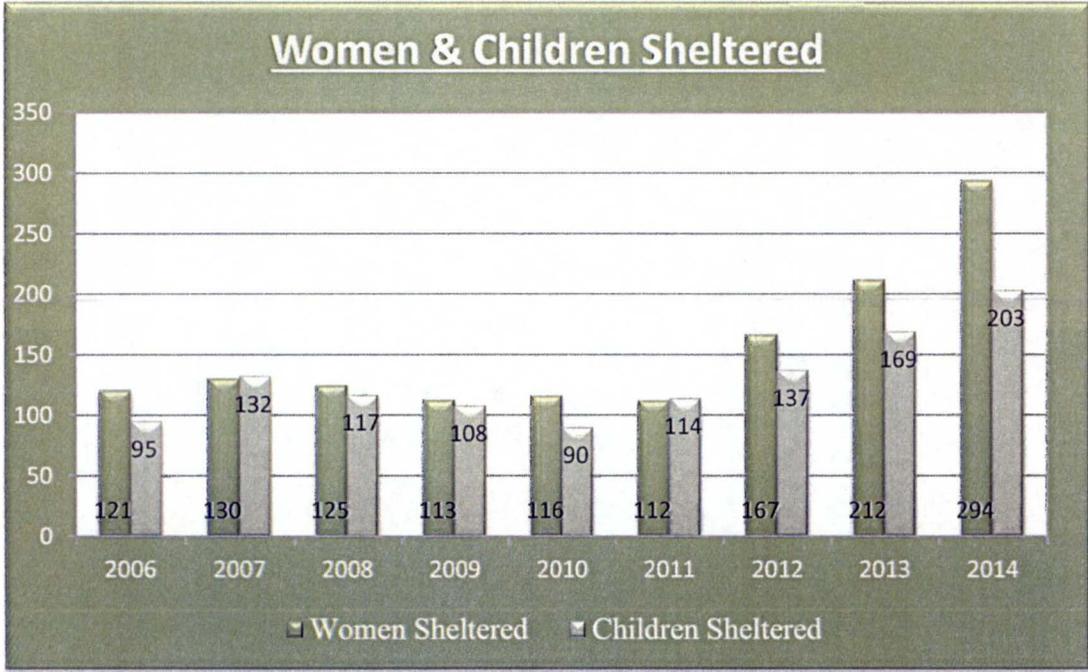
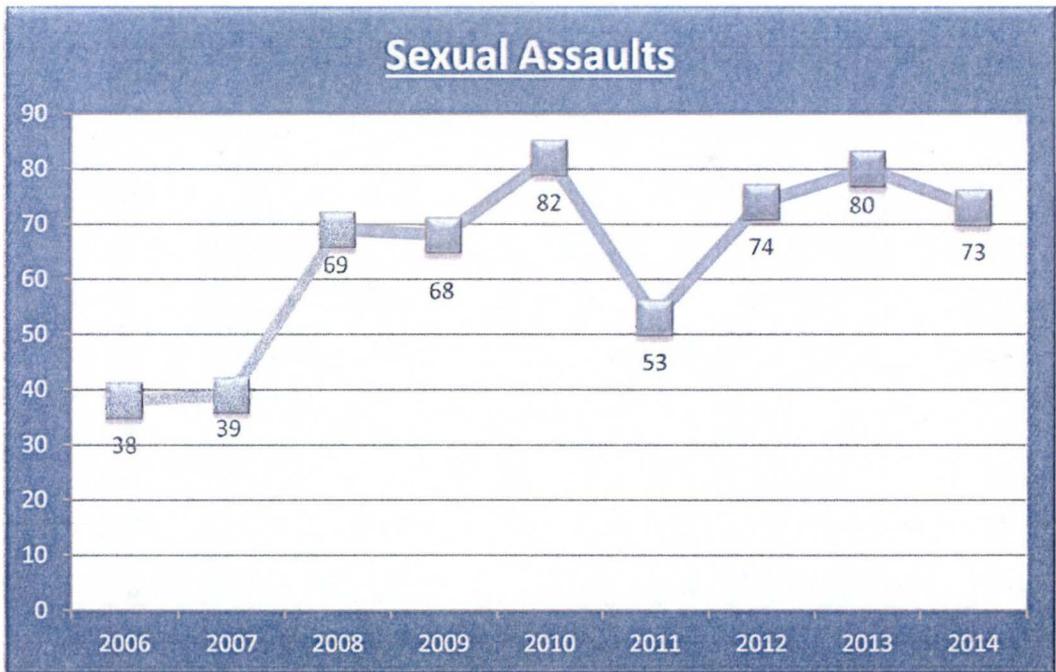
Increase  
from 2006  
to 2013

121%	114%	92%	143%	114%	145%	299%
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Part of #2 HB 1013  
January 21, 2015

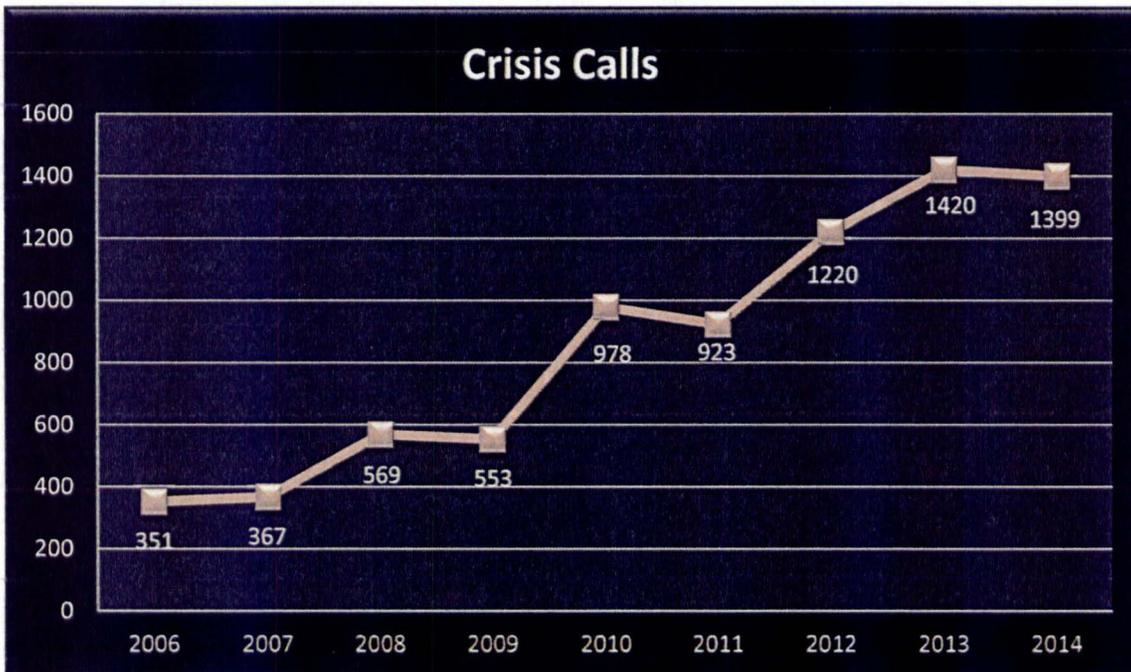
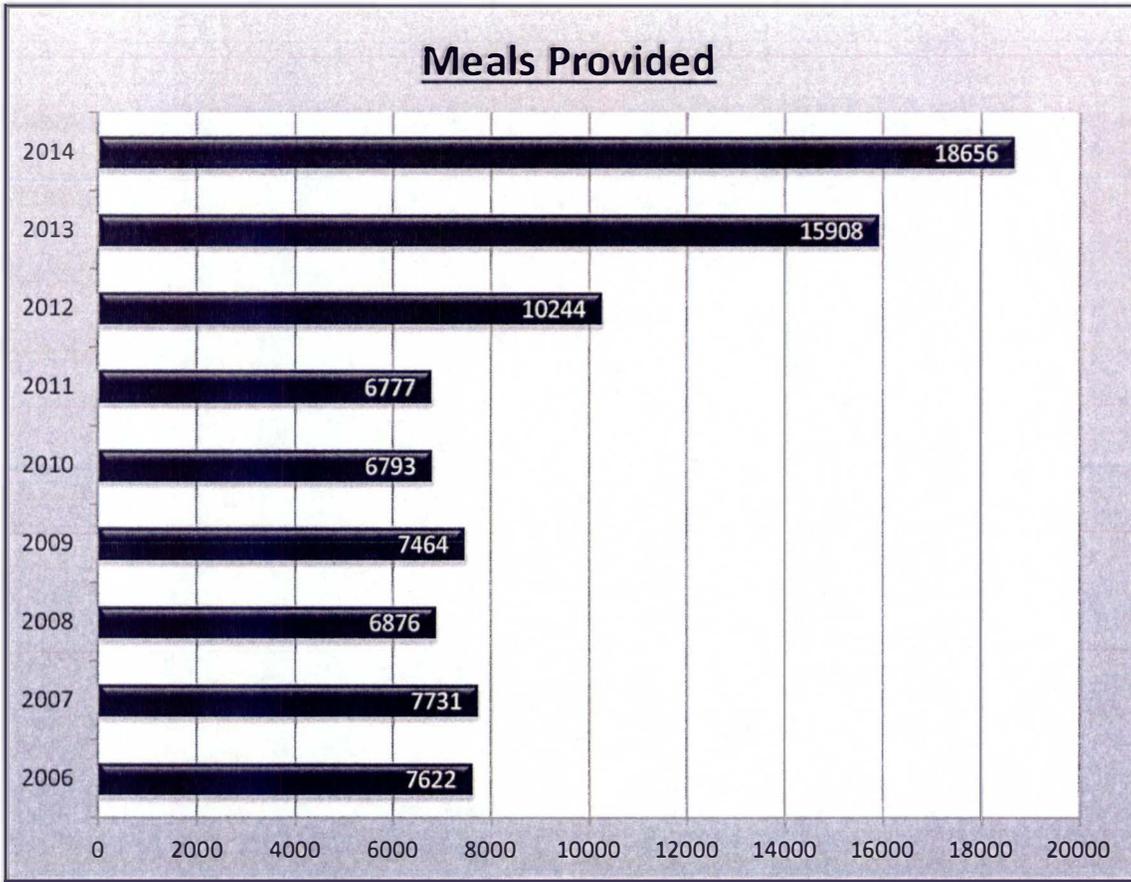
# Domestic Violence Crisis Center - Minot, ND 2006-2014



4

Domestic Violence Crisis Center - Minot, ND

2006-2014



5

# 3

HB 1285

January 21, 2015

Chairman and Human Service Committee Members,

My name is Jim Knudsen, a member of the Program Board for the Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) based in Minot. I am here to voice this Board's support for HB 1285.

From the outset, the members of the DVCC Programs Board and the members of the DVCC Foundation Board have been wholly and enthusiastically involved in the building of a new emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. This dedication for the project was easily aroused when all Board Members toured the previous shelter – a dilapidated, damp old house with 4 small bedrooms and two bathrooms, located on a dark, unpaved street in the outskirts of Minot. The shelter was often jam packed with 18 or more victims and their children. The atmosphere created by these conditions seriously undermined the efforts of the victims to gain emotional stability for themselves and their children, and physical independence from their attackers. The victims' children, infants to teenagers, had no quiet place to play or do their school work, and their energetic and often loud presence would often strain the nerves of their parents and the other adults in the shelter. DVCC staff were also hampered by lack of storage and office space. Thousands of meals were prepared and served in a totally inadequate kitchen. The Boards became aware that the shelter was, in itself, a kind of abuse of the mind and spirit of the victims we were serving-- a situation that had to end. The Boards began the search for property and funds to buy or build a decent shelter -- a shelter that would uplift, respect and encourage those adults and children who desperately needed a protective and tranquil space to recuperate and make wise decisions for their future.

The Program Board, after considering various properties for sale or rent, determined that building a new emergency shelter would be the best solution in the long run. A plot of land came up for sale at a bargain price, and the Foundation Board came up with the funds to buy it. Both Boards began putting together plans for financing the new building.

But then, the flood of 2011 barreled through Minot. The DVCC's two four-plex transitional living apartment buildings\* were destroyed and the emergency shelter's basement was waterlogged. At the same time, the Bakken oil boom started in earnest, and the Boards realized that not only did we need to replace the destroyed properties, we needed to expand our facilities to accommodate the sharply increased population that we serve.\*\* The Program and Foundation Boards solidly supported the DVCC Executive Director's vision to turn this unfortunate confluence of events into an opportunity to develop her innovative plan to build a "campus" of services for victims that included the shelter, transitional apartments and support services in one setting, giving easy access of victims and their children to staff and restorative activities, as well as greatly improving the efficient use of staff time.

Financial assistance from various foundations made it possible to build new transitional apartments and to increase their number, as these foundations wished to help with the alleviation of the flood destruction. The sale of the previous DVCC administrative office made it possible to replace and expand the support services and administrative office space at the new campus site. However, without a functional emergency shelter, the DVCC program had no foundation for entry of victims into our services. Therefore, the Boards decided our only recourse was to obtain a loan to build that facility, with

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Part of  
# 3

HB 1285  
January 21, 2015

the hope and faith that government and the private sectors would contribute a share for this sorely needed service. The private sector has rewarded our expectations by contributing all the shelter's as well as the transitional apartments' furnishings – bedrooms, kitchen, sitting rooms, even a children's playroom and playground equipment. We now are counting on government to assist us with the construction cost of the shelter facility.

We support, therefore, the approval of shelter HB 1285. With this assistance, we can turn our attention and our fund raising activities to the equally pressing need to hire more staff to meet the challenge of our population surge, and to increase staff salaries in order to attract and retain quality personnel.

Thank you for listening to our story.

\*Apartments rented on a sliding fee scale to victims and their children who decide to leave their abusive situation. A victim can rent a transitional living apartment for up to 18 months.

\*\* The Minot-based DVCC provides services to Ward, Pierce, McHenry, and Renville counties.

HEATHER INGMAN

#4

Testimony on HB 1285  
House Human Services Committee  
January 21, 2015

#### Shelter plans for the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center in Dickinson, ND

- Current shelter space contains 4 bedrooms, 2 and ½ baths with the capacity of 18 beds.
- Looking to build a new shelter facility. Estimating the need for 8-10 bedrooms with the capacity of holding 25 individuals.
  - The capacity must remain manageable for the current staff, as finding new employees has proven to be a difficult task.

#### Population served and Housing options offered

- 18 beds available for women and children.
- Serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and homeless families
- Serve Southwestern North Dakota. Counties covered are: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark. These counties encompass 10,002 square miles

#### Need for New Shelter

- With an 18 person capacity we are consistently at capacity or over capacity, as the rate of domestic violence and sexual assault has increased and continues to increase rapidly.
- On a consistent basis we are seeing the number of women and children who reside in the shelter as high as 26.
- With a lack of affordable housing available, shelter stays are ranging from 1 to 3 years. Five years ago, we would have been able to have families in apartments and hooked into support systems within 3 months, this is now 9 months or longer.
- With the diverse population of homelessness and domestic violence, we are now more than ever having to turn clients away as our space is limited and over capacity. In 2014, we have had to turn away 34 homeless clients due to lack of space. While we as an agency may have to turn away due to lack of space, we do not simply close our doors. We make referrals to the appropriate agency's that may be able to provide services to them.

#### Need to Build

- Dickinson continues to grow at a rapid rate. With this growth comes the need for current agencies to build larger buildings as well.
- Agencies that have moved into larger buildings or are in the process of building new buildings include law enforcement, the fire department and the hospital.
  - As a domestic violence shelter we rely heavily on these agencies to provide immediate services to our clients.
  - It is vital that we have a new shelter that is centrally located to these agencies.

HB 1285  
January 26, 2015

- Although there are many current buildings that have been vacated, the task of reconstruction would prove to be a daunting task. The estimated cost for renovations would far surpass the value of building and the location of the buildings would be far from law enforcement and medical care.

#### Vision and Community Support

- As an agency we envision a new shelter containing 8-10 bedrooms and the capability of housing 25 women and children.
- DVRCC has the support of many people. These people include builders, realtors, land owners and members of the community of Dickinson and the surrounding area.
- We have a diverse board with varying professions and expertise. The board is supportive in assisting with this process, utilizing and offering their knowledge and expertise.

15.0760.01001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Representative Weisz  
February 9, 2015

#1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

Page 1, line 2, after "shelters" insert "and to provide a statement of legislative intent"

Page 1, after line 16, insert:

**"SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - FUNDING FROM EARLY DISTRIBUTIONS.** It is the intent of the sixty-fourth legislative assembly that funding for grants provided in section 1 of this Act be considered as part of the funding provided in Senate Bill No. 2103."

Renumber accordingly

*JN*  
2/23/15  
HB 1285  
Attachment 1  
2/20/15  
House Approps.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

Page 1, line 1, remove "provide a statement of legislative intent; and to"

Page 1, line 6, after "appropriated" insert "out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated,"

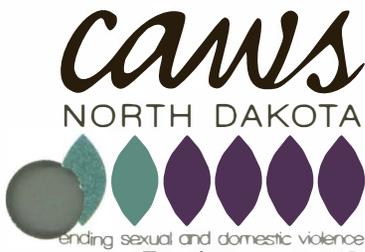
Page 1, line 6, replace "\$2,000,000" with "\$650,000"

Page 1, line 10, remove "establish"

Page 1, replace lines 11 through 16 with "provide a grant of up to \$400,000 to a qualifying organization serving a community in a non-oil-producing county with a population exceeding 10,000 based on the most recent decennial census. The department shall require three dollars of nonstate funds for each one dollar of the grant funds awarded up to \$400,000. The department shall provide a grant of up to \$250,000 to a qualifying organization serving a community in a non-oil-producing county with a population of 10,000 or fewer based on the most recent decennial census. The department shall require one dollar of nonstate funds for each one dollar of the grant funds awarded of up to \$250,000."

Page 1, remove lines 17 through 19

Renumber accordingly



Attach # 1  
HB 1285  
03/09/15  
J#24503

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## Testimony on HB 1285

Senate Human Services Committee

March 9, 2015

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Janelle Moos and I am the Executive Director of CAWS North Dakota. Our Coalition is a membership based organization that consists of 20 domestic violence and rape crisis centers that provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in all 53 counties and the reservations in North Dakota. I'm speaking this morning on their behalf, to provide you an overview of HB 1285, and to urge your support of the bill.

Safety is and always will be our first priority for victims of domestic violence. Shelter (or emergency housing) is an essential service that enables us to provide safety for victims fleeing violence. It was back in the 1970's when victims first started having conversations at kitchen tables about the violence they were experiencing in their marriages and it still is today.

Although we've moved away from "safe homes" that were often a bedroom in someone's basement to a more intricate network of shelters the services provided by these facilities offer victims and their children a safe and secure place to eat and sleep, talk to an advocate, and make critical decisions about what is best for them and their families. Although I'd like to say that victims should be able to be safe in their own homes the reality is many are not. It often takes victims up to 7 times to finally leave an abusive relationship and when they do choose to leave it is often to one of the shelters located in communities in North Dakota.

Our state has all but reached a crisis. Domestic violence shelters are at or above capacity; the facilities are old and in need of repair and in some communities have had to close due to accessibility and safety issues. The lack of affordable housing has also caused a strain resources and our ability to provide shelter to all victims. Up until recent years our shelters would be able to house a victim for up to 30 days but now length of stays are turning into 60 days to as long as 6 months or one year. And the number of victims that our shelters have to turn away due to lack of space is growing every day.

As you can see, HB 1285 appropriates funding from the strategic investments and improvement fund to the Department of Commerce to provide grants to domestic violence shelters to construct, renovate or purchase facilities to provide shelter to victims. Of the 20 crisis centers defined under Chapter 14-07.1-01 nine operate shelters that are located in Bismarck, Dickinson,

Williston, Beulah, Minot, Belcourt, Mandaree, Grafton and Grand Forks. Safe Alternatives for Abused Families in Devils Lake operated a shelter until about six months ago but had to close their doors because of accessibility and safety issues. Victims living in that six county region are being housed on a temporary (emergency) basis in hotels in Devils Lake or are being transported to a nearby shelter in Grand Forks, Grafton or Minot (if space is available). The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center in Fargo works in collaboration with the YWCA who provides shelter in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Of the nine locations listed above at least 5 are in need of a new shelter or to expand on the capacity of their current facility and were identified as the priority for funding appropriated in HB 1285. Those communities are Williston, Dickinson, Devils Lake, Minot and Grand Forks.

Our shelters are funded primarily through direct federal grants or federal grants that are administered and passed through a state agency such as the Department of Health or the Department of Commerce. A smaller portion of their budgets include state general funds, foundation grants and local donations. The primary purpose of both the state and federal funds is for staffing, utilities, food, and other supplies such as household goods, clothing and toiletries. Federal and state funds restrict our shelters ability to build or renovate existing facilities so it leaves little if any funding in their budgets to meet the ever growing need for expansion.

As you can see from the handouts I've provided the number of shelter nights and the cost of sheltering domestic violence victims has increased dramatically over the last five years and not just in those counties most heavily impacted by oil and energy development. The need for more shelter is a statewide issue. For example, in Williston, where the population has exploded and crime rates continue to rise, the Family Crisis Shelter continues to operate a shelter with a capacity of 7 in the upstairs of an old house in the downtown area. As you can see from the handouts in 2009, there were 71 victims sheltered at the cost of \$1,420. By 2013, that number has doubled to 142 victims sheltered at the cost of \$4,260. Although costs have gone up budgets of these shelters have not increased to meet the need and therefore the programs are having to rely more heavily on donations and community support.

On the other side of the state in Grand Forks they were recently asked by the hospital to begin making plans to find a new place for their shelter because they had other plans for the property that the shelter is located on. They launched a capital campaign to build a new shelter that they expect to house 40 and cost an estimated \$2.2 million. In the past five years, there has been a 50% increase in number of nights sheltered; a 30% increase last year alone. Additionally, they've had a 125% increase in the need for overflow housing (hotels) because the shelter has been full.

A private/public partnership is proposed in HB 1285 and is the most viable solution to assist in the construction or renovation of existing shelters. The engrossed version of the HB 1285 was amended to include a reduced amount of funding (\$650,000) and it is designated to provide grants to support the costs of building a new shelter in Devils Lake and Grand Forks. The local match requirement is 1:1 while in Grand Forks it is 3:1. Funding to support the three remaining communities (Dickinson, Minot, and Williston) that need to expand the existing shelter or build a new facility is included as part of the oil impact grant funds outlined in HB 1176.

In closing, I can't stress enough the need for additional funding to support the expansion or construction of domestic violence shelters across the state. In order to allow our shelters the ability to continue to offer the safety victims need I urge you to look favorably upon HB 1285 and move a DO PASS recommendation.

Thank you.



# 2009-2013 SHELTER FACTS

The growth of communities in North Dakota has an impact on sexual assault and domestic violence work, from shelters to client load.

## YWCA Fargo

### Shelter

In 2009 there were **1,414** victims sheltered at a cost of **\$35,350**. In 2013 there were **1,339\*** sheltered at the cost of **\$49,543**.

### Children

In 2009 there were **701** children sheltered and in 2013 there were **674**.

### Meals

In 2009 there were **22,619** meals provided and in 2013 this increased to **31,025**.

\* While the number decreased during this time frame, the average length of stay increased by 10 days.

## Family Crisis Shelter Williston

### Shelter

In 2009, there were **71** victims sheltered at a cost of **\$1,420**. By 2013 that number had doubled to **142** with the cost at **\$4,260**.

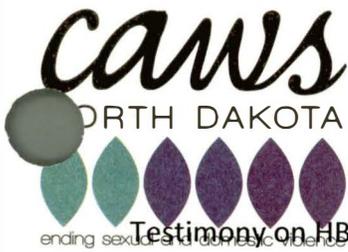
### Children

In 2009 there were **32** children sheltered and in 2013 that number increased to **50**.

### Meals

In 2009 there were **882** meals provided and by 2013 this number had more than tripled to **3,672**.

Attach #2  
HB 1285  
03/09/15  
FFB24503



ORTH DAKOTA

Testimony on HB 1285

Senate Appropriations Committee

March 26, 2015

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#1

3-26-15

HB 1285

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