

2019 SENATE JUDICIARY

SB 2057

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2057
1/8/2019
#30514 (44:54)

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Meghan Pegel

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a forensic nurse examiners grant program.

Minutes:

3 Attachments

Vice Chairman Dwyer opened the hearing on SB 2057.

Senator Larson: For several biennia now we have had this sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) brought to us for funding. The funding has come through the SIF fund, which is only one-time funding, and that is why it had to be brought back to us each time. We should put it into the Attorney General's budget and have this be a regular, continuing appropriation. That is the reason for the bill being written as it is. If passed it will be rereferred to the Appropriations committee. SANE are specially trained nurses able to forensically collect evidence. Congressman Armstrong last session claims this is the bill that really puts bad guys in jail. Rather than every 2 years, this is the way it should be from now.

Senator Luick: Why don't we have a Fiscal note attached to this?

Senator Larson: We'll fix that.

Vice Chairman Dwyer: This program has been ongoing and is very important. It's not in the Governor's budget?

Senator Larson: The attorney general has a lot of things under their purview that they fund. This was under the attorney general's purview only as a grant program. They will still continue it as a grant program, but it will become a part of their budget after this.

(3:40) **Rebecca Lefavor**, Bismarck Sexual Assault nurse, testifying in favor (see attachment #1)

Lefavor: Attached to my testimony are letters of support from the Mandan Police Department, Dr. Gordon Leingang-a Bismarck physician, and from Trinity Health in Minot. I've been nurse for 20 years and a sexual assault nurse, or a forensic nurse, for 15 years in the Bismarck area.

A forensic nursing program is a program with nurses on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to patients who have a history of sexual assault. Throughout North Dakota we have several types of programs. We have community based programs, where nurses are a separate entity from the hospitals. We also have hospital based programs where the nurses are in the ER working a shift and they get pulled off the ER. We also have clinic based programs where nurses again are a separate entity but we respond to patients.

These patients have specific needs including medical, psychological, physical and spiritual. Because their body is a crime scene, a forensic nurse's job is to make sure that the medical and legal piece meet on a live body. The office of victims of crimes states that the forensic nurse is accurate in collection of evidence such as being able to put the correct number of swabs in the sexual kit and we're able to talk to law enforcement about the findings that we have. We also testify in court. It's an extra level of training. Nurses don't get taught how to testify in court and collect evidence and neither do physicians for that matter.

In the Criminal Justice System, we can discuss what we have found on a patient's body. We also can discuss the average number of patients that have injury or not. We're especially trained in strangulation. We can help in investigation efforts. We centralize the service for these patients. We have advocacy, law enforcement and myself come together to do a joint interview so that patient only has to report that history once and not multiple times to multiple providers. We put bad guys in jail. Our pediatrics services started in 2016 when legislation gave us our grant the first time. We were able to expand our pediatric services.

(see attachment #1 page 2) On the map you will see red diamonds and Bismarck. Those are the programs that are under the umbrella of the Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiner's (CDFNE) program, the program I work for. The stars on the map are separate programs that have either hospital, clinic or community based programs. We have programs throughout; however, we still need to cover more geographic area.

(see attachment #1 page 3 and 4) We cannot charge our patients for services. In 2007 there was legislation that stated patients cannot be charged for collection of evidence to prosecute crime. Therefore those funds had to come from a different spot. Our program is funded through individual reimbursement, other agencies and other private grants. The grant money allowed us to expand our services to the pediatric population and we added new locations. Each location takes about \$30,000 to get up and running- that's a multitude of equipment, supplies, training, etc. In the future we would like the grant money to create sustainable programs that allows these smaller programs to stay afloat and we would like to advance the care. We currently have nurses who are going to school for nurse practitioner regardless of what happens with this legislation to be able to get services to these patients. We have a dedicated group of employees. Funding is critical to expand these services to these patients. We cannot bill patients or their insurances for collection of evidence.

(see attachment #1 page 5) Please take a look at our numbers. I can only speak to the CDFNE program. Anyone under our umbrella, I'm not sure what their numbers are, but these are our numbers. It's very telling. We went from 171 patients in 2016 to 253 in 2018. It's important to note that the number of pediatric patients have grown significantly as well.

(12:35) Senator Luick: How much money did you get last biennium?

Lefavor: I believe it was \$250,000- the same amount

Senator Luick: And you think this will be sufficient?

Lefavor: It's reasonable but I'd certainly like to see more.

Senator Luick: Do you have carryover?

Chair Larson: No

Lefavor: (see attachment #1 page 6) The last page you'll see the amount of nurses that we've trained in North Dakota. This training is not easy. There are victims in this room- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime. These services are imperative to the healthcare of our North Dakotan citizens. I love walking into that room and being able to help someone in the small amount of time I can.

(15) Senator Myrdal: I represent the Northeastern part of the state and I would like to see more presence up there. What is the process in getting a practice up there?

Lefavor: We try to get the community stakeholders together such as law enforcement, advocacy, willing nurses, hospitals and a location. It takes a lot of community coordination. Ultimately you can start a program in a hospital, but you need law enforcement collaboration it's not used effectively. When we work with prosecution we prep about an hour. They go through all of our documentation. They want to know what we see and what we didn't. I've testified against OBGYNs who didn't do the assessment and my testimony had more weight because I was the one who actually did the assessment and was there. We can be considered expert witnesses. Our education and training as a nurse and how trauma effects a patient. It's my opinion that we do a really good job when we come together. It's stakeholders getting together. Then after that it's funding. We have to pay the nurses to be on call.

Vice Chairman Dwyer: You would like to add more geographic locations to this program?

Lefavor: I would as long as the communities are open to it.

Vice Chairman Dwyer: Have you established programs in every community that is open to it or are you limited by funding?

Lefavor: It's both. Bismarck is now established as a norm. Whereas when you're trying to change people's opinions and functions, they tend to get resistive. Sometimes it's difficult to bring those people to the table. The community has to want it. Then we have to find out where the money comes from. We have in the past tried to do this without funding backing us.

(19:20) Senator Luick: What history do we have for repeat offenders and repeat situations?

Lefavor: That's a law enforcement or parole question.

Lefavor: Training the nurses takes a total of 80 hours in classroom plus another 80 hours outside of classroom. On average there's 10 nurses per training. Please be aware that our stories never have happy endings, they're difficult to hear and this is why we have turnover with nurses. They average about 2-3 years. It's important to realize the emotional toll it takes on nurses to care for the victims in addition to the extensive training and be on call.

I'd like to tell you about Grace. Grace is a 6-year-old, beautiful girl who came to the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). I was the nurse on call and responded to the CAC. Her mom had

been giving her a bath and when they got to the intimate scrubbing, she said “No Mommy that hurts. It hurts when daddy puts his fingers there”. Those are the things that the nurses have to go home and sleep on and figure out how to get that emotional roller coaster dealt with to move onto the next patient.

Last year I had seen an adult patient at the hospital who had come with her mother. They had both gone through the process. Before her and her daughter had left, they looked at me and said “Thank you so much for the services you provide. Not only did you help me 10 years ago, you helped my daughter today”. I encourage you to vote in favor of this bill so I can continue to serve these patients.

(24:30) Paula Condol, Executive Director of the Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center, testifies in favor for the bill (see attachment #2)

(30) Vice Chairman Dwyer: If you had more funding, what would you do?

Condol: We need more pediatric programs across the state. The CAC state chapter did a growth plan in the last two years and looked at where we had gaps in services. Medical examinations of kids was our largest gap. These kids have to travel hours to get to a place to see a medical provider who can provide these exams. I would like all of the programs to have both pediatrics and adult coverage.

Senator Myrdal: Is there an outreach to encourage communities for setting up new locations?

Condol: The CAC has a statewide organization for outreach. We try to encourage and engage them. I don’t think there’s a statewide coalition of sexual assault nurse examiners that has the capacity to take that on. It’s just individual pods of passionate people who are trying to move this forward across the state.

(33:20) Jonathan Byers, Attorney General’s office, testified in favor for bill

Byers: My position was created by the state legislature in 1991. When I came to Bismarck to work for the Attorney General, this resource was not available anywhere. So I began doing sexual abuse prosecution. The phrase that is often said is “it’s a he said she said” case. If officers tell me that then I often reply “If that’s the situation, you haven’t looked hard enough”- we need to find some evidence to make it not a he said she said case. What sexual assault nurse examiners do goes a long way towards making sure that it’s not these cases, that it’s not a child or woman left standing on their own trying to convince a jury that this in fact happened. It’s money well spent.

Senator Osland: I find it hard to believe that the Attorney General’s office could not acquire funds equal to or greater than \$250,000 for this program. Assuming we pass this bill, then this will go to Appropriations with our endorsement. It seems they need more money. Can you explain the appropriations end of the Attorney General’s budget?

Byers: This is one of the many programs proposed to be in the AG’s budget. We also have to defend the money that’s in our budget for prosecution witness fees, returning fugitives to the state of North Dakota. We have \$660,000 item in our budget for funding the actual sexual

assault examinations and children's interviews. We have many things we must defend in our budget. The AG is supporting what is in the bill, the \$250,000 to help fund these programs.

(36:50) Senator Bakke: Is this is for the nursing staff to pay their salary and fees?

Byers: I think it's in here that it's not supposed to cover salaries. I believe it helps with supplies, rent, communications, contractual services, equipment rent, training and travel, etc. A lot is intended to be for training.

Chair Larson: I did not put that in this year's bill. If a nurse examiner is called out, his or her time is covered in this bill. That was the intent.

Senator Bakke: This is grant funds to establish the program in an area and not necessarily for the salary. Who pays for their salaries for all those other things if this is just training money?

Byers: I think one of the goals is to try to establish these resources in places that don't have them. However, I certainly think it's important to continue funding the ones that already are there. Looking at the amount given, it won't totally fund somebody's program somewhere, but it will certainly help.

Chair Larson: These are nurses who do regular nurse duties also. This is special training for them to be allowed to go beyond their regular nursing duties to collect forensic evidence and do it in a very compassionate way.

Senator Bakke: Are they paid to do that service through the hospital?

Chair Larson: This is set up as a grant program continuing forward. The particular nursing program would be specifying in their grant request how they're going to use the funds in this particular setting. The particular duties are not spelled out in the bill, but the funding is so that the grant program can continue on.

Byers: Not only do we want the professional to be able to see signs of sexual assault, but we also need to capture that for use in court and law enforcement records. We need the equipment and those things cost money.

(41:50) Renee Stromme, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator of the Abused Adult Resource Center, testified in favor of bill (See Attachment #3)

Stromme: I want to add the voice of the advocacy programs. We provide the on-call services 24 hours a day to victims 14 and over. This system increases offender accountability and reduces the trauma significantly for the victim. We as advocates stay with them throughout the course of the situation. This has been incredibly important to the process and really encourage a do pass.

Senator Myrdal: Moved a Do Pass and Rerefer to Appropriations.

Senator Luick: Seconded.

Senator Bakke: I'm overwhelmed. Thank you for everything you do.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent. Motion carries.

Senator Myrdal will carry the bill.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2057: Judiciary Committee (Sen. D. Larson, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2057 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

2019 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2057

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2057
1/21/2019
Job # 31117

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Rose Laning

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a forensic nurse examiners grant program.

Minutes:

Testimony Attached # 1 – 8.

Legislative Council: Brady Larson
OMB: Becky Keller

Chair Holmberg: Committee come back to order for hearing SB2057. All members present. Welcome Sen Larson.

Sen Diane Larson, Dist 30: This is the SANE nursing funding – the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. We have funded this for several different biennia, but the funding came from SIIF Fund which is one-time funding, so it has been coming back every two years to get funded again. The SANE nurses have special extra training to be able to collect forensic evidence in sexual assault cases that put bad guys in jail. This is important. This money usually has gone to AG's Office to be handled as a grant. I thought this should be a continuing appropriation in the AG's Office rather than funded by SIIF. I spoke to the attorney general and he supported it. We passed it out of Judiciary unanimously. I ask this committee's support.

Sen Dever: Has it been funded previously at this same level?

Sen Larson: It has been requested at this same level. Last session it was reduced. They train nurses from around the state so that someone who has had a sexual assault doesn't have to take a bus or get in a car and drive to Bismarck or Fargo or Grand Forks to get examined. They can go to their local hospital and have somebody who is trained to help them. In my committee, they said if we had more money, we could do so much more.

Chair Holmberg: Last time we funded it at \$150,000.

Rebecca LeFavor, Director, Central Dakota Nurse Examiners (CDFNE) (Attached # 1) She tells about support letters she received. The money you allotted last year was for the whole state, not just the programs we oversee. (She explained what forensic nurses do.) We are on call 24/7. On the second page, you will find a map of North Dakota. This map indicates all of the sexual assault programs in North Dakota. When you get to that map you will see

stars on the eastern side that are not programs that we oversee. The diamonds are what we oversee. We work as a team with law enforcement and with advocacy. The doctors in ER want to call the experts in and not deal with the patient. Forensic nurses complete a more thorough and accurate evidence collection as compared to nurses who have not been trained as a sexual assault nurse. We properly seal and label the specimen envelopes; we complete the appropriate forms; we maintain chain of custody and we are generally better trained than your average nurse. We also testify in court when needed. We appreciate the money we have gotten in the past. Our pediatric services started in 2016 in Bismarck and expanded out to Minot and Dickinson.

If you look at map, every program that we supervise, except Williston, has a pediatric program. Our numbers have increased by 38%. Our funding last session was decreased by 50%. The grant money helps us expand our services to pediatric population and add new location, which takes \$30,000 to start. It costs \$1000/nurse to train. We can't charge our patients for services. In 2007, legislators passed a law that states that patients can't be charged for the collection of evidence to prosecute a crime even though that crime scene is their body. We could do more if we had more money. In the future, we would like to expand to do follow up services. My executive director is a nurse practitioner now, but last session she was not. We would like patients to have follow up. We would like to have a location in Garrison. I am currently going to school to become a NP so I can do follow up.

In 2016 we had 171 patients. In 2017 we had 183 patients. In 2018 we had 253 patients and we added our pediatric services to that. We try hard to use our money effectively. I know that some locations are turning patients away because they don't have the nurses in the community. They had to drive here. Slide #5 tells about the number of nurses we have trained.

The burnout rate for this type of nursing is very high. The average SANE Nurse lasts for 2-3 years. I get up at 2:00 a.m. because people need me. I need to be on call. On New Year's Eve I saw 3 patients in 24 hours. These each take from 4-6 hours. Usually this is not the primary source of income for our nurses. I have another job during the day and do this job at night. It is an added source of stress. (15.03-16.03 - she gave a story about Mary, age 6). I have seen this cycle of abuse for 15 years in this community. Our training is 40 hours in classroom and 40 hours supervised practice. I would not give up this job. I urge you to DO PASS.

(17:08) Senator Hogue: When you mentioned the burn out rate, I wonder about the sustainability of this program. What are your thoughts of embedding this in the major health care providers as opposed to a group of independent nurses?

Rebecca LeFavor: The independent nurses are allergic to a subpoena. They will not testify in court and just will not provide services. The reason why we started in Bismarck was because the nurses and doctors between CHI and Sanford got together and stated they can't do this effectively. I have a group of 7 very dedicated nurses. There's a lot of burnout, but we are a very tight knit group. More funding would allow us to do more things; hire more staff so they could take a month off instead of taking call and do self-care. Worrying about sustainability is a good thing, but won't help to put it on primary care.

Jon Byers, Criminal & Regulatory Division, North Dakota State Attorney General's Office:

No written testimony.

I am here to lend the attorney general's support for SB 2057. I came to Bismarck in 1991 to work as a sex crimes prosecutor. When I came to Bismarck, this resource was not available. There were no trained individuals that we have now. It was not funded by \$150,000 – now \$250,000 is asked for. My work was harder because of that. There is a phrase out there talking about sexual assault cases: He said/she said case. I tell police officers in training that if you leave it a he said/she said case, you haven't done your job and haven't looked hard enough. One of the ways we make it not a he said/she said case is to have a trained medical professional that is able to look for the signs of abuse and if it's there, to be willing to come into court to testify about that. I have seen the positive aspect and money well spent.

(20:46) Senator Dever: How does this money works with money from the Children's Advocacy center and then is there separate money that pays for the rape kit?

Jon Byers: The money that supports the Children Advocacy Centers does not pay for the medical aspect of what they do. It helps set up a place for them to operate, pay staff. They still have to contract for someone to come do the medical exam. There is funding for the exams themselves which is \$400 for basic sexual assault exam. \$100 for EMTALA (Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act) screening exam that is part of that and if it is a more advanced exam that requires use of a colposcope, then the reimbursement rate is \$700. This money here is intended to set up and operate and possibly buy instruments. It uses the money to train SANE nurses and for continuing training for the specialized field. All three of those funding areas help when they are put together to keep them operating.

Senator Dever: You mentioned two programs with sources of funding, but when you talked about the services and they are paid for. I did not hear the source of that funding.

Jon Byers: There is a \$660,000 appropriation that is funded through the attorney general's office and is paid for out of the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund that pays for individual exams. Over a biennium, that \$660,000 pays for that. The Children's Advocacy Center funding is larger. I think \$900,000 right now. That is to fund three Children's Advocacy Centers and three satellite offices to pay their staff, rent and other operating expenses. That's a second source of funding. This SANE nurse funding is the third.

Tisha Scheuer, Executive Director, Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners (CDFNE) Bismarck

No written testimony but in support of SB 2057: I just want to refer to the letters of support that we handed out. I urge you to read the letters because they could not be here today as it is a holiday.

Chairman Holmberg: Any more wanting to testify? Seeing none he closed the hearing on SB 2057. SB 2057 may end up in the Attorney General's Office, so the sub-committee will be: **Senators Sorvaag, Bekkedahl, and Mathern.**

Letters of support submitted:

Attached # 2 - Susann DeForest, Nurse Manager, Emergency Trauma Center, Trinity Health & Jeffrey A. Sather, Medical Director, Emergency Trauma Center, Trinity Health

Attached # 3 - Dr. Gordon Leingang, EMS Medical Director, St. Alexius Medical Center

Attached # 4 - Paula Condol, Executive Director, Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, Bismarck, ND

Attached # 5 - Lori Hahn, VP Patient Care Services & Dan Bjerknes, VP Hospital Operations, CHI St. Alexius Health, Williston, ND

Attached # 6 - Christa Hugelen, Director, Emergency Services, Dickinson Medical Center

Attached # 7 - Jason Olson, Chief of Police, Minot Police Department & Justin Sundheim, Investigations Commander, Minot Police Department, City of Minot, North Dakota

Attached # 8 - Renee Stromme, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator, Abused Adult Resource Center, Bismarck, North Dakota

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2057
2/13/2019
Job # 32637

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Rose Laning

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a forensic nurse examiners grant program.

Minutes:

Legislative Council: Adam Mathiak
OMB: Larry Martin

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on SB 2057.

Senator Sorvaag: This is the forensic nurse examiner's grant program for \$250,000 and was put into the Attorney General's budget and the appropriation will be ongoing.

Senator Sorvaag: Moved a Do Not Pass.

Senator Grabinger seconded the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 0.

Chairman Holmberg said this bill will be carried on the floor after the AG bill and Senator Bekkedahl will carry the bill. Maybe we should re-do that and place it on the consent calendar.

Senator Mathern: was concerned about putting this into the AG bill as it may be amended later.

Senator Sorvaag: I move we reconsider our previous action on SB 2057.

Senator Wanzek: seconded the motion.

Voice vote carried.

Senator Sorvaag: Moved a Do Not Pass on SB 2057 and place it on the consent calendar.

Senator Grabinger: Seconded the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes: 14 No: 0 Absent: 0.

Chairman Holmberg: Closed the hearing on SB 2057.

Date: 2-13-19

Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2057**

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 Sorvaag Seconded By Grabinger

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Holmberg	✓		Senator Mathern	✓	
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator Grabinger	✓	
Senator Wanzek	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Poolman	✓				
Senator Bekkedahl	✓				
Senator G. Lee	✓				
Senator Dever	✓				
Senator Sorvaag	✓				
Senator Oehlke	✓				
Senator Hogue	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Bekkedahl

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

Date: 2-13-19

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2057

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 Sorvaag Seconded By Wanzek

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Holmberg			Senator Mathern		
Senator Krebsbach			Senator Grabinger		
Senator Wanzek			Senator Robinson		
Senator Erbele					
Senator Poolman					
Senator Bekkedahl					
Senator G. Lee					
Senator Dever					
Senator Sorvaag					
Senator Oehlke					
Senator Hogue					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Voice Vote Carried

Date: 2-13-2019

Roll Call Vote #: 3

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2057

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 Sorvaag Seconded By Grabinger

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Holmberg	✓		Senator Mathern	✓	
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator Grabinger	✓	
Senator Wanzek	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Poolman	✓				
Senator Bekkedahl	✓				
Senator G. Lee	✓				
Senator Dever	✓				
Senator Sorvaag	✓				
Senator Oehlke	✓				
Senator Hogue	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Bekkedahl

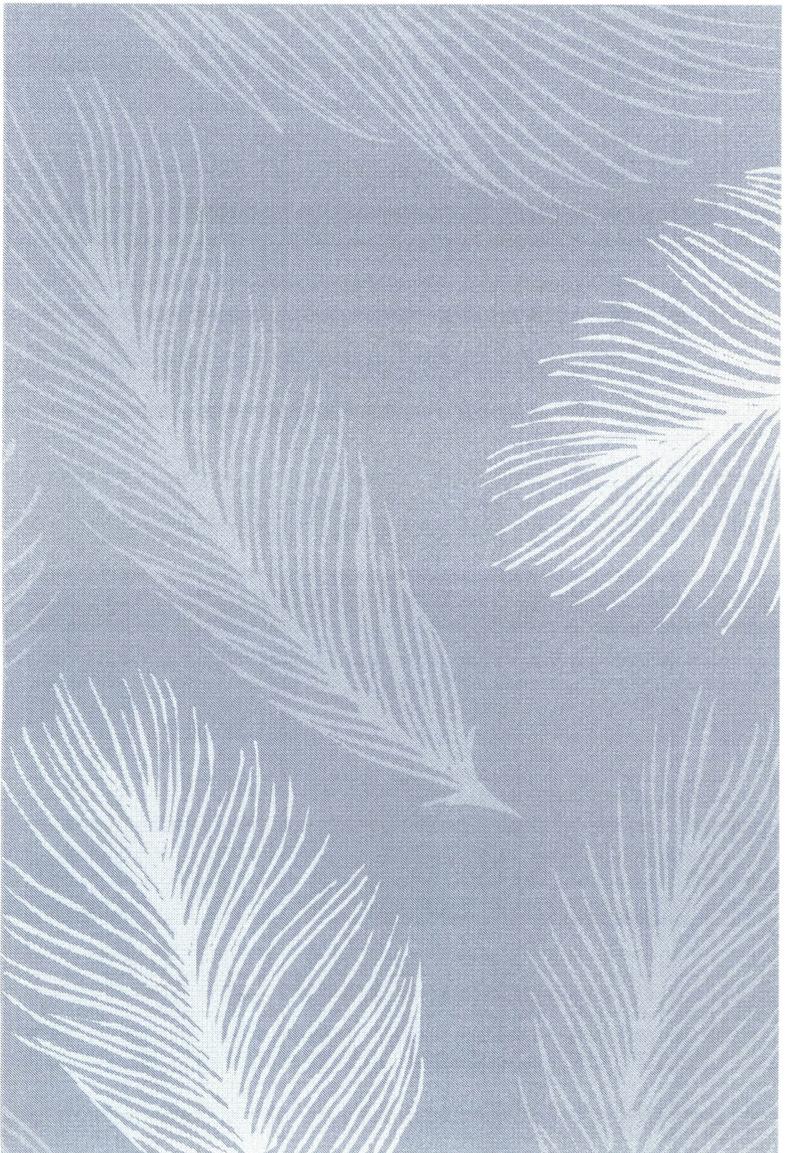
If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2057: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2057 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

SB 2057



North Dakota Senate Bill 2057

Rebecca LaFavor MSN RN A/P SANE

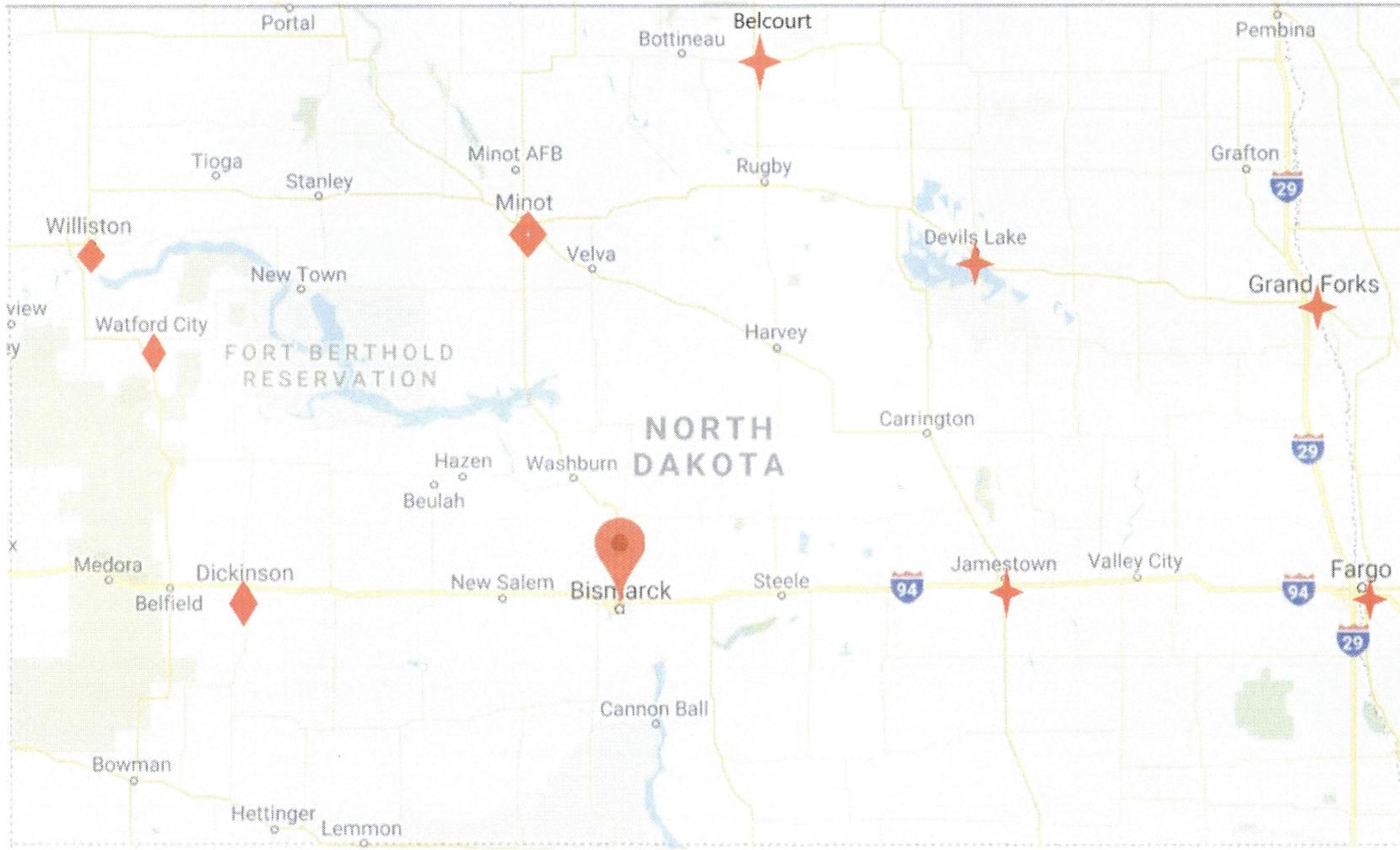
Rebecca.cdfne@midconetwork.com

Bismarck SANE Nurse

Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners

Rebs.lafavor@gmail.com

1 pg 1
SB 2057
1/8/19



Number
of
Forensic
Nurse
Programs

Grant money helped us:

***we cannot charge our patients for services



Grant money will help us:

***we cannot charge our patients for services

Create

Create sustainability for programs
at the end of financial resources

Advance

Advance care to include a follow up
Nurse Practitioner in 3 locations

Year	2016	2017	2018
Totals assaults in our program	171	183	253
Total assaults in Bismarck	95	92	144
Total assaults in Minot	51	47	46
Total Assault in Dickinson	11 (no peds)	26	39
Total assaults in Williston	14 (no peds)	18 (no peds)	24 (no peds)
Average age of patients	24	21	22
Total number of Pediatric exams	32	62	106
Total number of Adult exams	139	121	147

Patients served
in the CDFNE
program

1 pg 6
SB 2057
1/8

Location	# of Nurses currently working
Bismarck	7
Dickinson	6
Minot	6
Williston	3
Watford City	2
Jamestown	3
Grand Forks	8
Fargo	10
Belcourt	1
Devils Lake	2

Training of Nurses in ND

- Training was held yearly
 - Average of 10 nurses per training



POLICE

Mandan North Dakota

Jason J. Ziegler
Chief of Police
205 1st Ave N.W.
Mandan, ND 58554
701-667-3250

As the Chief of Police for the City of Mandan, with almost 29 years of law enforcement experience, I have held many different positions and experienced many tragic situations. In my career I have worked both patrol and investigations, as not only an officer but as a supervisor. One of the most tragic situations and crimes that an officer can investigate is crimes involving sexual assault. This letter is in support of SB 2057, which is an act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a forensic nurse examiner grant program.

Mandan Police Department has been working in collaboration with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, which is referred to as "SANE", for many years. This partnership with SANE is about providing the best multi-disciplinary professional response to every sexual assault victim that we can. This coordinated response will give law enforcement and the state the ability to collect the critical forensic evidence necessary to not only investigate, but to prosecute sexual assault cases.

Having the SANE program, with forensically trained nurses, is critical to the law enforcement mission. Officers and detectives know that the professionally trained SANE nurses will increase the evidentiary efficiency and that quality results will be returned quickly. Having SANE nurses greatly improves the quality and consistency of the collection of evidence in all cases they are involved in.

I strongly encourage that you give SB 2057 a "do pass" recommendation and provide this appropriation so we can continue to provide quality investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases in our communities.

Sincerely,

Jason J. Ziegler
Chief of Police
City of Mandan

1 pg 8
SB 2057
1/8

January 6, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
North Dakota State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Support of Senate Bill 2057

Dear Committee Members;

This letter is to inform you of my support of SB 2057; relating to treatment of victims of sexual assault; and to provide an appropriation. This bill supports a grant program that will continue to provide best practices in the care of sexual assault victims and support direly needed forensic Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs (SANE) in the state of North Dakota.

I have been medically directing our community-based SANE and SANE-P programs for the past 15 years in Bismarck, and have witnessed first-hand the difference they make in the lives of the victims we care for. When a victim comes to the clinical setting, having been the victim of a sexual assault, I am fully confident the victim receives comprehensive, peer reviewed, best-practice care from our dedicated and highly trained SANE Nurses.

- They recognize the physical, emotional, psychological, socio-economical, spiritual, and cultural well-being of the victim and give them priority
- The victims receive age specific treatment and services every time
- The victims receive the same standard of care regardless of the circumstances of the sexual assault (this does not happen when medical staff are not specialized in their care)
- An environment is provided that promotes a victim-centered approach to all victims of sexual assault
- When the health care professional is trained in the appropriate collection of evidence and medical examination, specific to victims of sexual assault, they will also be prepared to help that victim connect with the community resources that are vital to the recovery from the sexual assault, and ensure the legal and competent collection of evidence for prosecution of perpetrators

My enthusiastic support of this bill comes with the hope that we can continue to develop and sustain the highest level of care of victims in our existing programs, and that this grant program will bring the same high standards of care to the victims in our state who currently do not have access to this type of care.

Dr. Gordon Leingang, DO, FACEP, FACOEP
EMS Medical Director
Medical Advisor, Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners/ SANE and SANE-P programs.
Advisory Council, Dakota Children's Advocacy Center
St. Alexius Medical Center. Mid Dakota Clinic, PC



1 pg 9
SB 2057
1/8

January 3, 2019

RE: in support of SB 2057

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to provide a letter of support for SB 2057 to support funding for domestic violence and rape crisis programs in our state. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs in our area are a vital part of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in Minot. Our SART is active and interactive and meets quarterly to assure the care given to victims of sexual assault are the best we can offer. We strive to assure all victims are receiving services available, including prevention education, acute care, evidence collection and follow up care as well.

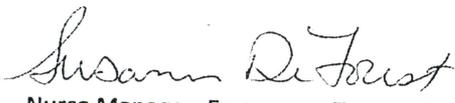
The Minot SART serves a wide region of North Western North Dakota. Represented at SART is Law Enforcement from the sheriff's department, local police departments, Minot State University and Minot Air Force Base and two reservations. Trinity Health's administration supports the community SART and is active in problem solving, planning and support to this group and to the patients that come to the emergency department for care when reporting sexual assault. Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiner's (CDFNE) completes the evidence collection at Trinity Health. Domestic Violence Crisis Center responds with an advocate for every victim that reports sexual assault. This group is vital to the care of victims of sexual assault and SB 2057 will allow for the multidisciplinary team to continue providing services.

The care given to victims in our region is supported by legislation such as SB 2057. As part of the management group at Trinity Health, we would like to convey our support for this legislation that provides the ability to offer services to victims of violent crimes. Trinity Health Emergency Trauma Center (ETC) physicians and management support the care of victims of sexual assault by continuing to provide evidence collection and interview away from the ETC. Providing care away from the ETC provides a less chaotic environment that is more conducive to collecting details of the crime in the interview process. Having time, space and the appropriate persons respond to victims of sexual assault is the best practice and we look forward to continuing to offer a SART-based approach.

We support the SB 2057 grant program and believe it will help offer a reliable and high standard of care to the victims of sexual assault in our region. Thank you for your time and consideration of a yes vote on SB 2057.

Sincerely,

Susann DeForest, RN, MSM


Nurse Manager, Emergency Trauma Center

Susann.deforest@trinityhealth.org

Jeffery A. Sather, MD, FACEP


Chief of Staff

Medical Director, Emergency Trauma Center

Jeffrey.sather@trinityhealth.org

Judicial Committee
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill #2057
1-8-19

2
SB 2057
1/8/19

Chairwoman and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Paula Condol. I am the Executive Director of the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, located here, in Bismarck ND. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2057.

The Dakota Children's Advocacy Center is one of the Children's Advocacy Centers across the state committed to improving the response to child abuse. Each CAC is a community partnership that utilizes a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach in supporting alleged victims and investigations of child abuse. Professionals from social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities meet under one roof so that a child only has to tell of his or her abuse one time. Sensitivity to the needs and abilities of children is the hallmark of the children's advocacy center model which is utilized at over 800 Children's Advocacy Centers, in all 50 states across the country. Including three Children's Advocacy Centers in ND covering six regionally placed sites; one in Bismarck, Dickinson, Minot, Belcourt, Fargo and Grand Forks.

Child abuse happens in North Dakota. In 2018 Children's Advocacy Centers in ND served 2630 people and provided 23374 services to them. This includes 323 medical exams across the state and 79 exams here in Bismarck alone. Every year our centers see children that are sexually abused, beaten and threatened. They have witnessed violence and at times been exploited through pornography and trafficking. Children's Advocacy Centers offer comprehensive services to help these children and families

through this experience and start them on the road to healing. A part of this is providing medical exams to victims to ensure that their body is okay, to provide medical attention when it is not, and to preserve evidence of a crime. In the past three years the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center has had the pleasure to partner with the Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners to provide 24/7 coverage of these victims. A partnership that was made possible through a this grant to establish and provide SANE funding throughout the state. Senate Bill 2057 will provide continued and ongoing funding to ensure these services remain in place and allow for the opportunity for the expansion of services across the state.

I have had the privilege to work with child abuse victims for the past 18 years ~~now~~ and I have seen and heard many things a person shouldn't have to experience. Prior to SANE funding in the state children would come into our ER's after one of the worst experiences a child could experience. Someone violating their trust, ~~and~~ their bodies, and taking something from them that will be difficult to move on from. They come to the hospital in hope that someone can help them and tell them they are going to be okay. However, ~~way~~ too many times then I care to count in my career, I have been called in to talk to the families. To explain this service simply isn't offered in our area. That we are sorry we are adding to their difficulty and that I would be happy to see what I can do to help them get to Fargo or Sioux Falls. In the past, I have made endless calls begging someone to try and do the exam, bought bus tickets to get somewhere they could get help and offered endless apologies. This is something ER doctors are simply not trained for nor have the expertise to do. And these kids were simply sent away. In all of these years being able to say we now offer 24/7 coverage for the youngest of our victims has been one of my proudest achievements and something ~~that~~ I had worked years to try to achieve.

2
SB 2057
1/8

However, the simple reality is, without continued funding this service in many areas, including here in Bismarck will cease to exist.

We all play a critical role in ensuring the safety of victims in our state. A large part of this is ensuring their bodies are okay and they receive the medical attention needed to live a full and healthy life. Unfortunately, child abuse and sexual assault doesn't happen on a schedule and emergency on-call services is a necessity to serve this population. We understand and respect the tight restrictions of the budget this session. As providers in the non-profit world we are used to "making due" and "doing more with less". But we also understand the mission of the work and that work is sometimes too important to do without. This is one of those times where we as a state can stand up and say, it is not okay to do without. It is not okay to send a child who is hurting and scared away, to be told this isn't something we can help you with. We need to say to every child, woman, teen or anyone else who has experienced sexual abuse or sexual assault will be afforded a comprehensive, compassionate exam when they need one. No matter the time of day or night. We have an opportunity to do what's right and I am here today to ask you for your support.

Chairwoman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions.

3
SB 2057
1/8/19

Testimony in support of SB 2057
Senate Judiciary
January 8, 2019

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Good Morning, my name is Renee Stromme. I am the Sexual Assault Program Coordinator of the Abused Adult Resource Center located in Bismarck, North Dakota. I also serve on the board of directors for the Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners. I want to thank Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to speak today about Senate Bill 2057.

Senate Bill 2057 offers an opportunity for already established Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners programs to ensure all victims of sexual assault to receive specialized care and a forensic examination, when requested. This is crucial funding for a crucial service. SANE exams are critical for the criminal justice system and offender accountability.

The Abused Adult Resource Center has strived since 1976 to provide victims of domestic violence with crisis intervention and advocacy services. In 1994 we also began providing the full spectrum of our support services to rape victims in our community.

In spite of the fact that it is the most violent crime next only to murder, rape is one of the most underreported crimes in our nation. For those that survive the initial assault, the trauma of rape leaves them facing physical and emotional devastation because someone has stripped away personal control over the most intimate aspects of their being.

The forensic evidence collection process has been the solution for how to provide the best services possible to victims of rape.

In 2003 when our community implemented a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program and established a community response protocol for the team of responders working with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner we began ensuring that we placed the welfare of the victim foremost at all steps in the process.

Since that time our community has operated with a sexual assault nurse examiner that is the core of a response team which also includes an advocate and an investigator. I believe this is the best response for victims of rape and their families. A specialized care team gives victims the tools they need to begin their path to healing emotionally from the scars created by this devastating crime. When victims have positive experiences it encourages reporting these crimes within our communities.

I believe that when victims of rape come forth to report this crime we are all safer because of their courage. When they only have to tell their story one time it creates a stronger case. In addition when victims feel supported from the moment they reach out for help they are more likely to stay connected with the criminal justice system from the beginning report to the end of the trial.

SANE programs are at the core of providing best response services to rape victims within the state of ND. In fact without that component the victim is left with a host of medical and forensic issues related to the crime that no other responder can provide.

When medical providers do not have the expertise to understand the dynamics of rape and the first-hand experience of collecting evidence expertly the victim suffers because justice is often unattainable and the medical provider will struggle to assist the victim in overcoming the trauma related to rape.

I believe that Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner services are essential to helping victims and their families recover from the trauma of rape, as well as advance the crime through the criminal justice system. All victims in our state deserve the best response possible when they reach out for help in their community. I am asking you to make that support available to victims in their communities across our state as responders and systems work together to maintain Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner services.

On behalf of the Abused Adult Resource Center, I urge a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2057.

Sincerely,

Renee Stromme
Abused Adult Resource Center
701-222-8370
renees@aacnd.com

#1 SB 2057
1-21-2019
Pg 1

North Dakota Senate Bill 2057

Rebecca LaFavor MSN RN A/P SANE

Rebecca.cdfne@midconetwork.com

Bismarck SANE Nurse

Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners

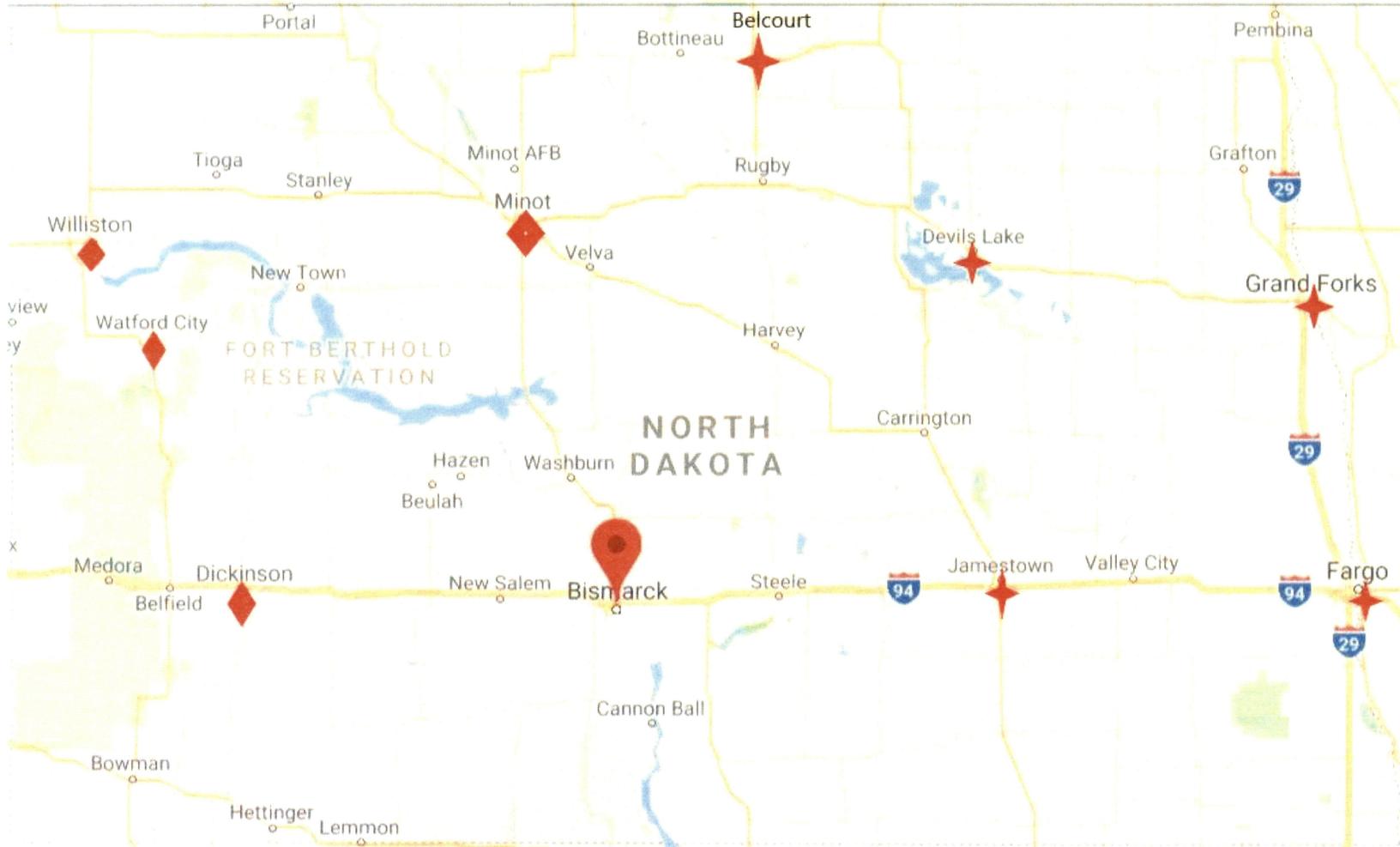


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SB 2057

1-21-2019

pg 2

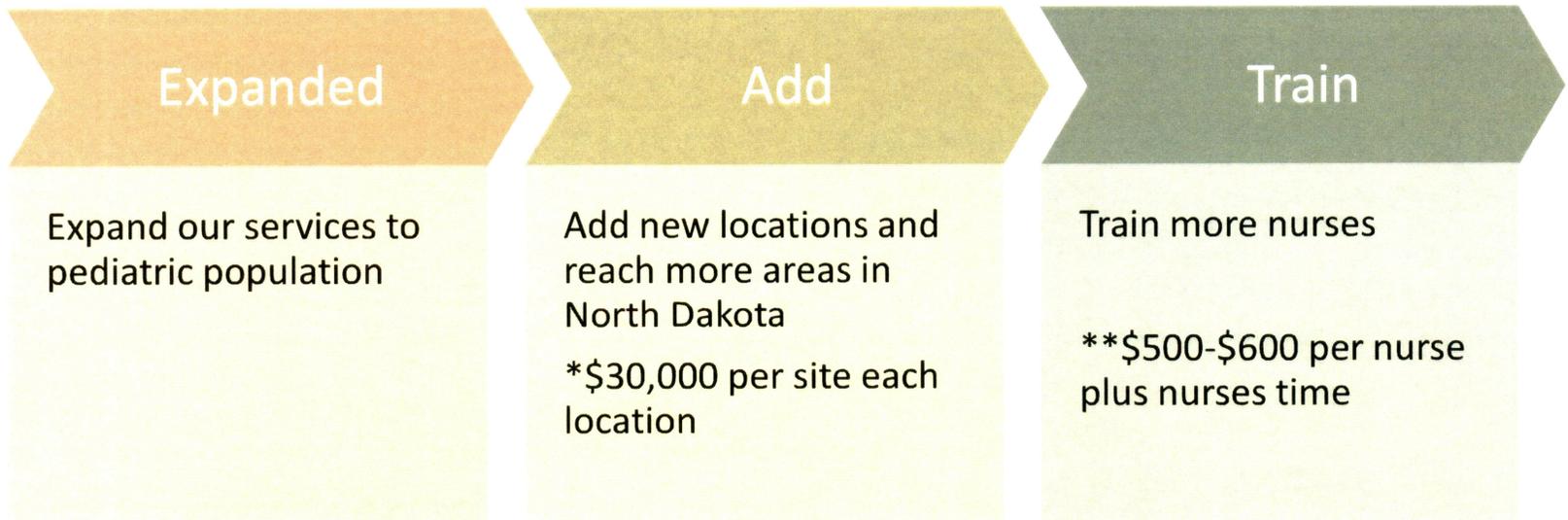


Number
of
Forensic
Nurse
Programs

/ SB 2057
1-21-2019
PJ3

Grant money helped us:

***we cannot charge our patients for services



Grant money will help us:

***we cannot charge our patients for services

Create

Create sustainability for programs
at the end of financial resources

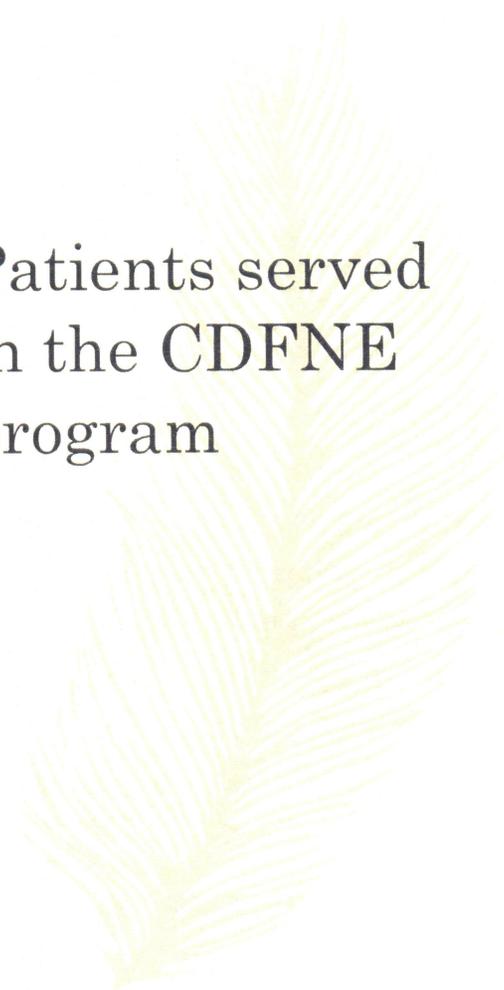
Advance

Advance care to include a follow up
Nurse Practitioner in 3 locations

/ SB 2057
1-21-2019
pg 5

Year	2016	2017	2018
Totals assaults in our program	171	183	253
Total assaults in Bismarck	95	92	144
Total assaults in Minot	51	47	46
Total Assault in Dickinson	11 (no peds)	26	39
Total assaults in Williston	14 (no peds)	18 (no peds)	24 (no peds)
Average age of patients	24	21	22
Total number of Pediatric exams	32	62	106
Total number of Adult exams	139	121	147

Patients served
in the CDFNE
program



/ SB 2057
1-21-2019
pg 6

Location	# of Nurses currently working
Bismarck	7
Dickinson	6
Minot	6
Williston	3
Watford City	2
Jamestown	3
Grand Forks	8
Fargo	10
Belcourt	1
Devils Lake	2

Training of Nurses in ND

- Training was held yearly
- Average of 10 nurses per training



2 SB 2057
1-21-2019
Pg 1

January 3, 2019

RE: in support of SB 2057

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to provide a letter of support for SB 2057 to support funding for domestic violence and rape crisis programs in our state. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs in our area are a vital part of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in Minot. Our SART is active and interactive and meets quarterly to assure the care given to victims of sexual assault are the best we can offer. We strive to assure all victims are receiving services available, including prevention education, acute care, evidence collection and follow up care as well.

The Minot SART serves a wide region of North Western North Dakota. Represented at SART is Law Enforcement from the sheriff's department, local police departments, Minot State University and Minot Air Force Base and two reservations. Trinity Health's administration supports the community SART and is active in problem solving, planning and support to this group and to the patients that come to the emergency department for care when reporting sexual assault. Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiner's (CDFNE) completes the evidence collection at Trinity Health. Domestic Violence Crisis Center responds with an advocate for every victim that reports sexual assault. This group is vital to the care of victims of sexual assault and SB 2057 will allow for the multidisciplinary team to continue providing services.

The care given to victims in our region is supported by legislation such as SB 2057. As part of the management group at Trinity Health, we would like to convey our support for this legislation that provides the ability to offer services to victims of violent crimes. Trinity Health Emergency Trauma Center (ETC) physicians and management support the care of victims of sexual assault by continuing to provide evidence collection and interview away from the ETC. Providing care away from the ETC provides a less chaotic environment that is more conducive to collecting details of the crime in the interview process. Having time, space and the appropriate persons respond to victims of sexual assault is the best practice and we look forward to continuing to offer a SART-based approach.

We support the SB 2057 grant program and believe it will help offer a reliable and high standard of care to the victims of sexual assault in our region. Thank you for your time and consideration of a yes vote on SB 2057.

Sincerely,

Susann DeForest, RN, MSM


Nurse Manager, Emergency Trauma Center

Susann.deforest@trinityhealth.org

Jeffery A. Sather, MD, FACEP


Chief of Staff

Medical Director, Emergency Trauma Center

Jeffrey.sather@trinityhealth.org

3

SB 2057
1-21-2019

pg 1

January 6, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
North Dakota State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Support of Senate Bill 2057

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is to inform you of my support of SB 2057; relating to treatment of victims of sexual assault; and to provide an appropriation. This bill supports a grant program that will continue to provide best practices in the care of sexual assault victims and support direly needed forensic Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs (SANE) in the state of North Dakota.

I have been medically directing our community-based SANE and SANE-P programs for the past 15 years in Bismarck, and have witnessed first-hand the difference they make in the lives of the victims we care for. When a victim comes to the clinical setting, having been the victim of a sexual assault, I am fully confident the victim receives comprehensive, peer reviewed, best-practice care from our dedicated and highly trained SANE Nurses.

- They recognize the physical, emotional, psychological, socio-economical, spiritual, and cultural well-being of the victim and give them priority
- The victims receive age specific treatment and services every time
- The victims receive the same standard of care regardless of the circumstances of the sexual assault (this does not happen when medical staff are not specialized in their care)
- An environment is provided that promotes a victim-centered approach to all victims of sexual assault
- When the health care professional is trained in the appropriate collection of evidence and medical examination, specific to victims of sexual assault, they will also be prepared to help that victim connect with the community resources that are vital to the recovery from the sexual assault, and ensure the legal and competent collection of evidence for prosecution of perpetrators

My enthusiastic support of this bill comes with the hope that we can continue to develop and sustain the highest level of care of victims in our existing programs, and that this grant program will bring the same high standards of care to the victims in our state who currently do not have access to this type of care.



Dr. Gordon Leingang, DO, FACEP, FACOEP
EMS Medical Director

Medical Advisor, Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners/ SANE and SANE-P programs.
Advisory Council, Dakota Children's Advocacy Center
St. Alexius Medical Center. Mid Dakota Clinic, PC

PO Box 1476 Bismarck, ND 58502-1476

dopa@bis.midco.net

701-258-9040



Dakota Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

4 SB 2057
1-21-2019
pg 1

Senate Appropriations Committee
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill #2057
1-21-19

Chairman and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Paula Condol. I am the Executive Director of the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, located here, in Bismarck ND. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2057.

The Dakota Children's Advocacy Center is one of the Children's Advocacy Centers across the state committed to improving the response to child abuse. Each CAC is a community partnership that utilizes a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach in supporting alleged victims and investigations of child abuse. Professionals from social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities meet under one roof so that a child only has to tell of his or her abuse one time. Sensitivity to the needs and abilities of children is the hallmark of the children's advocacy center model which is utilized at over 800 Children's Advocacy Centers, in all 50 states across the country. Including three Children's Advocacy Centers in ND covering six regionally placed sites; one in Bismarck, Dickinson, Minot, Belcourt, Fargo and Grand Forks.

Child abuse happens in North Dakota. In 2018 Children's Advocacy Centers in ND served 2630 people and provided 23374 services to them. This includes 323 medical exams across the state and 79 exams here in Bismarck alone. Every year our centers

4

SB 2057

1-21-2019

pg 2

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I have had the privilege to work with child abuse victims for the past 18 years ~~now~~ and I have seen and heard many things a person shouldn't have to experience. Prior to SANE funding in the state children would come into our ER's after one of the worst experiences a child could experience. Someone violating their trust, ~~and~~ their bodies, and taking something from them that will be difficult to move on from. They come to the hospital in hope that someone can help them and tell them they are going to be okay. However, ~~way~~ too many times then I care to count in my career, I have been called in to talk to the families. To explain this service simply isn't offered in our area. That we are sorry we are adding to their difficulty and that I would be happy to see what I can do to help them get to Fargo or Sioux Falls. In the past, I have made endless calls begging someone to try and do the exam, bought bus tickets to get somewhere they could get help and offered endless apologies. This is something ER doctors are simply not trained for nor have the expertise to do. And these kids were simply sent away. In all of these years being able to say

we now offer 24/7 coverage for the youngest of our victims has been one of my proudest achievements and something that I had worked years to try to achieve. However, the simple reality is, without continued funding this service in many areas, including here in Bismarck will cease to exist.

We all play a critical role in ensuring the safety of victims in our state. A large part of this is ensuring their bodies are okay and they receive the medical attention needed to live a full and healthy life. Unfortunately, child abuse and sexual assault doesn't happen on a schedule and emergency on-call services is a necessity to serve this population. We understand and respect the tight restrictions of the budget this session. As providers in the non-profit world we are used to "making due" and "doing more with less". But we also understand the mission of the work and that work is sometimes too important to do without. This is one of those times where we as a state can stand up and say, it is not okay to do without. It is not okay to send a child who is hurting and scared away, to be told this isn't something we can help you with. We need to say to every child, woman, teen or anyone else who has experienced sexual abuse or sexual assault will be afforded a comprehensive, compassionate exam when they need one. No matter the time of day or night. We have an opportunity to do what's right and I am here today to ask you for your support.

Chairwoman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to try and answer any of your questions.

Paula Condol

Paula Condol, M.S, LPCC
Executive Director
Dakota Children's Advocacy Center



5 SB 2057
1-21-2019
PJ 1

Williston Medical Center
1301 15th Avenue West
Williston, ND 58801

P 701.774.7400
CHISTAlexiusHealth.org

January 14, 2019

RE: in support of @B 2057

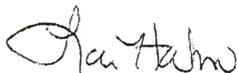
Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

We are writing to express our support for SB 2057 which supports funding for domestic violence and rape crisis programs in our state. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program is a vital piece of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in the Williston community. Our SART continues to help us provide the best possible care to our sexual assault victims; striving to assure all victims receive services available including; prevention education, acute care, evidence collection, as well as follow up care.

The Williston SART serves a wide region in North Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana. Represented on SART is law enforcement, an advocate, and a SANE nurse. The administration at CHI St Alexius Health Williston supports the community SART; providing a room to care for victims, necessary supplies and medication, as well as collaborating with SART to problem solve any issues that arise. A Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiner (CDFNE) completes the evidence collection at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston and an advocate is on site for every victim that reports sexual assault. This group is vital to the immediate care of the victim of sexual assault as well as in assuring evidence is collected accurately. SB2057 will allow for this multidisciplinary team to continue to provide services to these victims.

We support the SB 2057 grant program; it will allow us to continue to offer reliable, evidenced based care to victims of sexual assault in our region. Thank you for your time and consideration of a yes vote on SB 2057.

Sincerely,


Lori Hahn, MSN RN


Dan Bjercknes

VP Patient Care Services.

VP Hospital Operations

#6 SB 2057
1-21-2019
Pg 1



Dickinson Medical Center
2500 Fairway Street
Dickinson, ND 58601-2639

P 701.456.4000
F 701.456.4800
chistalexiushealth.org

January 9, 2019

RE: SB 2057

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a letter of **support of SB 2057** to support Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs in North Dakota. I am a mastered prepared Registered Nurse that brings 20 years of nursing experience. I have been the Director-Emergency Services for the past 6 months with 5 years holding the LEAD nurse role in the ED, however, have experience in emergencies and trauma for my entire career. In 2015, we officially started a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program.

Dickinson is considered a rural community located in the heart of the Bakken Region, where the discovery of an immense amount of oil has occurred. There have been many changes since the "oil boom" in western North Dakota some have been positive and some have been negative. The most visible change has been in the population. With an increase in population comes an increase in crime. Law enforcement has reported in that region there has been an increase in sexual violence by 300%.

The SANE nursing services provide the opportunity to develop a designated support for specialized victims. The work in collaboration with the SANE program and SART Team is the best practice of care for victims.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) are experts at addressing the psychological trauma in combination with physical trauma associated with sexual assault, focusing strongly on patient dignity and compassionate support. The facility utilizes the team and consults with them frequently, not only with sexual assaults, but also some domestic situations and injuries.

We support this SB 2057 because it will help with continued development of the program and sustain the highest level of care for victims of sexual assault possible in the Dickinson region. I am confident this program will bring the same high standards of care to the victims in our state who currently do not have access to this type of care especially the Bakken region. Thank you for your time.

I hope you take my thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely,

Christa Hugelen, RN-BSN
Director-Emergency Services
701-456-4401

City of Minot

Police Department



#7

SB 2057

1-21-2019

pg 1

January 17, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for SB 2057

Senate Appropriations Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to submit a letter of support for SB 2057. The funding of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE) in our area is a key component the Minot Sexual Assault Response Team. (SART). Minot SART is a multidisciplinary agency approach that use best strategic practices which focus on investigation and victim support for sexual assaults. Our area's SANE program, the Central Dakota Forensic Examiners (CDFNE) program, is an integral piece in achieving both of those goals.

The agencies of SART, which includes law enforcement, CDFNE, Minot Air Force Base, Minot State University, Domestic Violence Crisis Center all work hard to establish procedures to ensure victims of these crimes receive the care and investigation they deserve. CDFNE collect evidence at the hospital that is often the key component in the judicial process.

SB 2057 will not only have a direct impact on not only the quality of care that is given to the victims of these traumatic events, but help ensure consistent investigative processes are followed. A proven, reliable process is critical in an investigation and the CDFNE provide this for us.

We encourage a **yes** vote to support SB 2057.

Sincerely,

Jason Olson
Chief of Police
Minot Police Department
jason.olson@minotnd.org

Justin Sundheim
Investigations Commander
Minot Police Department
justin.sundheim@minotnd.org

★ The Magic City ★

8 SB 2057
1-21-2019
pg 1

Testimony in support of SB 2057
Senate Appropriations
January 21, 2019

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Good Morning, my name is Renee Stromme. I am the Sexual Assault Program Coordinator of the Abused Adult Resource Center located in Bismarck, North Dakota. I also serve on the board of directors for the Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners. I want to thank Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to speak today about Senate Bill 2057.

Senate Bill 2057 offers an opportunity for already established Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners programs to ensure all victims of sexual assault to receive specialized care and a forensic examination, when requested. This is crucial funding for a crucial service. SANE exams are critical for the criminal justice system and offender accountability.

The Abused Adult Resource Center has strived since 1976 to provide victims of domestic violence with crisis intervention and advocacy services. In 1994 we also began providing the full spectrum of our support services to rape victims in our community.

In spite of the fact that it is the most violent crime next only to murder, rape is one of the most underreported crimes in our nation. For those that survive the initial assault, the trauma of rape leaves them facing physical and emotional devastation because someone has stripped away personal control over the most intimate aspects of their being.

The forensic evidence collection process has been the solution for how to provide the best services possible to victims of rape.

In 2003 when our community implemented a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program and established a community response protocol for the team of responders working with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner we began ensuring that we placed the welfare of the victim foremost at all steps in the process.

Since that time our community has operated with a sexual assault nurse examiner that is the core of a response team which also includes an advocate and an investigator. I believe this is the best response for victims of rape and their families. A specialized care team gives victims the tools they need to begin their path to healing emotionally from the scars created by this devastating crime. When victims have positive experiences it encourages reporting these crimes within our communities.

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I believe that when victims of rape come forth to report this crime we are all safer because of their courage. When they only have to tell their story one time it creates a stronger case. In addition when victims feel supported from the moment they reach out for help they are more likely to stay connected with the criminal justice system from the beginning report to the end of the trial.

SANE programs are at the core of providing best response services to rape victims within the state of ND. In fact without that component the victim is left with a host of medical and forensic issues related to the crime that no other responder can provide.

When medical providers do not have the expertise to understand the dynamics of rape and the first-hand experience of collecting evidence expertly the victim suffers because justice is often unattainable and the medical provider will struggle to assist the victim in overcoming the trauma related to rape.

I believe that Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner services are essential to helping victims and their families recover from the trauma of rape, as well as advance the crime through the criminal justice system. All victims in our state deserve the best response possible when they reach out for help in their community. I am asking you to make that support available to victims in their communities across our state as responders and systems work together to maintain Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner services.

On behalf of the Abused Adult Resource Center, I urge a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2057.

Sincerely,

Renee Stromme
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