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"Restoring hope. Building futures. Changing lives."

Testimony

House Bill 1497 — Finance and Taxation

2/2/2021

Good morning Chairman Headland, and members of the committee. My name is Michelle Erickson, Executive Director of the Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC), located in Bismarck, North Dakota. I am in favor of this bill.

AARC is a domestic violence/sexual assault crisis agency serving seven counties. We operate an emergency shelter, a transitional shelter, a permanent supportive housing apartment building and a thrift store. We assist approximately 1300-1500 victims per year.

The opportunity to work with this amendment in the North Dakota Century Code relating to charitable income tax credit for contributions will provide all of our domestic violence/sexual assault programs an economic boost as they work with community donors. We have dealt with many challenges this past year in regards to limited space for sheltering, limited and sometimes non-existent PPE supplies, and having to be creative in sheltering clients safely including using motels which is not always the safest and most secure alternative. Having an additional source of dollars for our programs is essential to keeping our program running and providing safety and shelter to victims and their children.

Please extend your support to 1497. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

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