

February 8, 2021

House Human Services Committee
600 E. Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: In support of HB 1407

Chairman Rohr and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Sheridan McNeil and I am a resident of Bismarck, ND. I urge you to issue a "do pass" on HB 1407, relating to continuation of behavioral health care for inmates.

One of the ways to have and maintain a great state is to ensure we, as North Dakotans are healthy, which includes behavioral health care. We can help accomplish this by providing and continuing behavioral health care services to one of the populations that may need it most, the inmates of North Dakota. As a member of the North Dakota Prison Industry Advisory Committee for two terms, I've witnessed how a person's behavioral health can positively affect their outlook, productivity, and their drive to want to make constructive life changes and learn new skills to be a productive member of society. I am not speaking on behalf of the committee nor am I representing the views of the committee, I am only speaking to my own accounts of what I have witnessed as a committee member.

HB 1407 would help meet the behavioral health care needs of one of our most vulnerable populations and also help determine unmet needs through the study proposed in this bill. HB 1407 is inclusive to stakeholders whose voices should be heard to make informed decisions about the services needed for our inmate populations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheridan McNeil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Sheridan McNeil