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Testimony

Senate Bill 2185 – Finance and Taxation

1/20/21

Good morning Chairman Bell, and members of the committee. My name is Tara Lea Muhlhauser, Executive Director of CAWS ND (Lobbyist # 1035). I am in favor of this bill.

CAWS ND is a coalition of program in the state providing services for victims and survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking. I represent the 20 programs across the state of North Dakota. Nine programs in North Dakota provide Shelter services in their communities.

Senate Bill 2185 provides a new section of 57-02-08 of the ND Century Code for tax exemptions for our programs. This opportunity to have this tax exemption across the state provides our programs an economic boost. In our current environment, programs are struggling for resources because of the numbers they are serving, particularly in our shelter programs. They have had shortages of PPE, food, bed space, and unexpected costs for motel stays for survivors and victims and their families when the shelters are full.

This exemption would create an automatic process so that the programs can be assured they can budget accordingly in their programs without concern about the tax dollars needed to maintain their status.

Please extend your support to 2185.