



521 E Main Avenue  
Suite 320  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone 701.255.6240  
Toll Free 888.255.6240  
Fax 701.255.1904

cawsnorthdakota.org  
contact@cawsnorthdakota.org



**Senate Bill No. 2202**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Testimony Presented by Seth O'Neill, JD, MSW**  
**Email: [soneill@cawsnorthdakota.org](mailto:soneill@cawsnorthdakota.org)**  
**January 18, 2023**

Chairwoman Larson and members of the Committee, my name is Seth O'Neill and I am representing CAWS North Dakota in support of SB 2202. CAWS North Dakota is the statewide coalition of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs in North Dakota. Our programs serve victims of sexual assault and domestic violence across the state.

We support this bill because it would provide valuable training and support to service providers of domestic violence victims. In 2021, our member programs served 5,417 new victims of domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, at least 3,895 children were directly impacted by these incidences of domestic violence. We believe that widespread use of domestic violence forensic medical examinations will allow for better evidence collection and successful prosecutions of domestic violence offenders. Additionally, having service providers specially trained to do this work will provide comfort and support for domestic violence victims during a very difficult time.

We encourage the committee to give SB 2202 a do pass recommendation. I appreciate your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> See North Dakota Domestic Violence Facts 2021 (Included in Testimony).