



TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1102
House Appropriations – Education & Environment Division
January 31, 2025

Todd Feland, City Administrator
City of Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Todd Feland and I'm the City Administrator for the City of Grand Forks. I am providing this testimony in support of HB 1102.

The Grand Forks Police Department has seen a large increase of cyber-related crimes where digital evidence needs to be collected. From 2023 to 2024 there was a 100% increase of internet crimes against children and search warrants and subpoenas for the collection of digital evidence has tripled since 2022.

The Grand Forks Police Department currently has one (1) investigator assigned to cybercrimes. They partner with BCI agents in Fargo, ND to collaboratively investigate offenses to include all crimes involving internet and/or electronic means. This involves having the training, experience and equipment necessary to collect a wide range of digital evidence found on electronic devices used in all crimes from domestic violence to the sexual exploitation of children.

Local BCI agents assigned to Grand Forks would make the investigative process more efficient by adding local access to advanced cybercrimes technologies while reducing travel/distance for the cases that need their assistance. This additional support would help reduce the backlog in cybercrime investigations for our police department and the surrounding regional agencies by reducing the usage of BCI agents located in Fargo, ND.

The City of Grand Forks and the Grand Forks Police Department are also well aware that there will be a cost share to house these agents within GFPD. This cost share will help in various ways such as IT support, office space, travel and training. We estimate that cost share to be under \$200,000 per year for both agents. These costs will be absorbed into our existing budgets.

For these reasons, the City of Grand Forks and the Grand Forks Police Department request a DO PASS on HB 1102.

Thank you for your consideration.