



House Human Services Committee
Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 2387
3-12-25

Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Greg Kasowski, Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota. I am here in support of Senate Bill 2387.

This bill would afford sexual assault survivors these rights:

1. **To consult with a victim advocate during a forensic medical examination.** (2a)
2. **To have privately retained counsel when speaking with law enforcement about the alleged assault, except during forensic interviews with law enforcement.** (2b)

An exemption for child forensic interviews is important because having a third person (e.g., privately retained counsel) in the forensic interview room opens the door to [multiple issues, as noted in this white paper from the National Children's Advocacy Center](#). It should be noted that trained and experienced forensic interviewers from North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers conduct a majority of forensic interviews in our state. In 2024, our Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed 1,109 children. However, there are times when law enforcement may need to conduct a forensic interview. In these situations, our hope is that the law enforcement officer conducting the child forensic interview is trained in the foundational concepts of child forensic interviewing from a [curricula approved by the National Children's Alliance](#), conducts forensic interviews on a consistent basis, and participates in on-going training in the practice of forensic interviewing.

3. **To access the law enforcement report about the case, with exceptions for hindrances to an investigation and for minors.** (2c)
4. **To receive a document explaining sexual assault survivor rights.** (2d)

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today, and I will stand for any questions.

Sincerely,

Greg Kasowski
Executive Director

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