

House Bill No. 1047
House Judiciary Committee
Written Testimony Presented Seth O'Neill, JD, MSW
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Chairman Klemin and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Seth O'Neill and I am representing the North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition in support of HB1047.

This bill would provide up to 10 hours of psychological counseling to jurors who have served on a jury trial involving extraordinary graphic, gruesome, or emotional evidence or testimony. The individual would not be charged for accessing this service. Serving on a trial of this nature can be traumatic for the individuals involved and be difficult for individuals to process in a healthy manner.

This bill would give potential jurors peace of mind knowing that they have access to resources to support them after the experience. Ten hours of psychological counseling is equivalent to about 10, one-hour sessions which is plenty of time for the individual to be able to process some of the trauma resulting from their experiencing serving on a jury. This bill would encourage the citizens of North Dakota to uphold their civic duty by ensuring that individuals will have the necessary supports in place after their jury service.

Due to these reasons, we encourage the committee to give HB 1047 a Do-Pass Recommendation. I appreciate your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank You.

