

Senate Human Service Committee
March 18th, 2025 HB 1612
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Lee and the members of the Senate Human Service Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on HB 1612.

It is an absolute joy to support this bill. After submitting testimony on so many bills that I found particularly scary for mental health or public health, this is a bright spot in my day. I’m a suicide prevention advocate and work across the state to connect people to resources.

I do not know the rigors of being a pilot, but a friend of mine who lives in Grand Forks told me about the experience of a loss they had there. They told me about how much this bill mattered to them. And they knew my work was in suicide prevention and encouraged me to share this out.

What I know is that many licensed professionals or active service military are expected to be in good mental health. In practice, this often means when they are struggling with mental health they try to hide or minimize the problems they’re having until it is too late. Because to be honest with their struggles may mean losing their job and from that their livelihood and home. Our systems need to be more flexible and more realistic resources need to be offered, because while I understand the logic that enforces the strict mental health need, these restrictions don’t serve us well. They have the opposite effect and put more people in danger.

I don’t know the particulars of this bill, as it isn’t the usual population I serve in my work, but I think the issues here mirror the issues my professionals I work with have. And I strongly encourage any effort that increases access to mental health, support, and hope. I love that this bill exists and I love that we’re working to help our pilots out. For these reason and on behalf of my friend in Grand Forks, I urge a “Do Pass”

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler