

HB 1047
69th Legislative Assembly
Senate Judiciary Committee
February 18, 2025
Testimony of Travis W. Finck, Executive Director, NDCLCI

Madam Chair Larson, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Travis Finck and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. The Commission is the state agency responsible for the delivery of indigent defense services in North Dakota. I rise today on behalf of the Commission to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1047.

House Bill 1047 provides post-trial counseling to a juror or alternate juror in certain situations. Juror counseling provides a safe space for jurors to process and address emotional distress they may experience after serving on a particularly difficult trial, especially in cases involving graphic or traumatic evidence, allowing them to cope with potential psychological impacts and move forward from their civic duty without lasting negative effects. By addressing the potential psychological impact on jurors, courts can demonstrate a commitment to their well-being and maintain public confidence in the legal process. The Commission believes this program will encourage jury participation. This serves to strengthen the legal process and move the legal system in this state forward.

For the reasons states herein, the Commission supports HB 1047 and respectfully requests a do pass recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted:



Travis W. Finck
Executive Director, NDCLCI