

HB 1166
Senate Judiciary
March 11, 2025
Testimony of Todd N. Ewell, Deputy Director, NDCLCI

Good Morning. Chair Larson, members of the Committee, my name is Todd Ewell and I am the Deputy Director of the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents (hereinafter "the Commission").

I rise today to in support of HB 1166. The Commission believes that automatically sealing criminal records in the circumstances outlined is the right thing to do. Individuals who have been found Not Guilty or have had criminal charges dismissed should not be burdened by allegations our court system has determined to be unfounded. By allowing the records to be sealed, these accused individuals will no longer have to provide court orders or other documentation to potential employers when pursuing new jobs. This bill will level the playing field for job seekers who simply want to put their allegations behind them. On behalf of the Commission, I request a Do Pass recommendation for HB 1166.

Respectfully submitted:

Todd Ewell

Todd N. Ewell, Deputy Director

N.D. Comm. on Legal Counsel for Indigents