MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS
P.O. Box 3065
201 N. 24th St., Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-6315 • MinistryOnTheMargins.com

Madam Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Nathan Mickelson, the Prison Reentry Manager at Ministry on the Margins (MOTM), a nonprofit in Bismarck - Mandan started by Sister Kathleen Atkinson. Our reentry program focuses on identifying and delivering the much-needed resources to those re-entering society after a period of incarceration. Since beginning with Ministry, I have worked synergistically with the DOCR in several aspects both inside and outside the walls from teaching classes, attending community resource fairs, pre-release planning with case workers to a reentry supper club, a Bismarck – Mandan prison Re-entry coalition and even a community reentry resource sharing event to identify and streamline organizational resources.

Having gone through my own reentry experiences, I am familiar with the challenges and barriers faced by those re-entering society. HB 1549 addresses and delivers solutions to these barriers on the "back-end" of reentry, including creating a task force focused on expanding housing opportunities for the justice involved. Landlords continue to price "gouge" justice involved, making it nearly impossible to get safe, secure housing. HB 1549 further expands on the importance of reentry and delivery of solutions such as ID's and Medicaid upon release, correctional facility program grants, improved data collection, criminal record sealing and a much-needed reentry program and partnership between the DOCR and ND's tribes.

We are building something special here in North Dakota by focusing on restorative justice and addressing the root cause rather than incarceration. HB 1549 is a step in the right direction by focusing on rehabilitation rather than incarceration and MOTM would welcome the opportunity to engage and support its actions.

Thank you.

Nate Mickelson

Prison Reentry Manager

Ministry on the Margins

701-390-4000

nathan@ministryonthemargins.org

ministry
ON THE MARGINS

MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS
P.O. Box 3065
201 N. 24th St., Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-6315 • MinistryOnTheMargins.com