

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1613.

Good morning Madam Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jesse Jahner, and I am the elected Sheriff in Cass County North Dakota currently serving in my second year of my second term. I have worked with the Cass County Sheriff's Office since May of 1998. During my time at the Sheriff's Office, I have worked in Corrections, Patrol, Investigations, Narcotics Investigations, Street Crime Investigations and in Special Operations. I have served as the Dakota Territories (North and South Dakota) Sheriff's Association President and currently serve as a National Sheriff's Association Board Member.

I testify before you today in opposition to House Bill 1613. As the bill currently stands and with the definition of a "Robot" as I interpret it, if this bill were to pass it would eliminate a number of technology tools that law enforcement currently uses to protect their officers and citizens, gather information and evidence for court cases, and would set law enforcement back financially in a number of areas law enforcement has advanced in over the years. The way the definition current reads it would affect body worn cameras, drug recognition processing devices, mobile data computers (in-car computers), and license plate readers. All of these item's sense, process and act using technology, they also use communications links and artificial intelligence falling under the definition of a "Robot." In addition, our Red River Valley Bomb Squad uses a robot quite frequently to assist them in neutralizing explosive devices. Their robot is equipped with a lethal weapon described as a "disruptor cannon" to neutralize explosive devices. The bill language states that a law enforcement agency may not authorize the use of, including granting a permit to use, an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot armed with any lethal weapons. This would mean that rather than Bomb Squad Members being able to use a robot to render an explosive device safely they will now have to potentially handle the explosive device by hand, putting their lives in extreme danger. I feel the bill also causes issues for open records requests and search warrant evidence collection.

Madam Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, please give House Bill 1613 a do not pass recommendation. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jesse Jahner

Cass County Sheriff