

April 8, 2025
HCR 3028
North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony from Anna Frissell, Youthworks

Honorable Chairperson Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

My name is Anna Frissell. I am submitting neutral testimony today for House Concurrent Resolution 3028.

I work for Youthworks. Youthworks is a 501(c)3 non-profit providing youth and family services throughout North Dakota since 1986. We have offices in Fargo, Minot, Grand Forks, and Bismarck, with services extending to the surrounding counties. Youthworks' focus and expertise is working with homeless, runaway, trafficked and struggling teens, as well as parents and young adults, 24 years of age and under.

Since 2015, Youthworks has been the recipient of state and federal funds to combat Human Trafficking in North Dakota. The federal dollars that Youthworks receives are from the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). In the last biennium, Youthworks' Anti-trafficking team served 147 youth (ages 12-24), provided 400 hours of clinical services, and responded to 1,800 hours of crisis intervention. Most of the youth served were survivors of other crime, with child sexual abuse, child abuse/neglect, and family violence being the most common. Of the youth victims served at Youthworks, 48 were also experiencing homelessness. Youthworks provided these youth with additional housing support, including 3,196 nights of housing.

Youthworks is committed to working with trafficking survivors from the moment that they are identified. We support them as they work to reclaim their lives and go through the prosecution of their trafficker.

Learning how to live independently after being trafficked is incredibly difficult and Youthworks Anti-Trafficking Specialists assist to help build the primary skills that we all take for granted. This process is not linear and requires time and patience. It can take years for trafficking survivors to move forward.

In the event this resolution results in a legislative study, Youthworks will assist the work of the study committee by providing expertise and data.