



GRAND FORKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF ANDY SCHNEIDER



To: Chairman Lefor and House Industry, Business, and Labor Members
From: Sheriff Andy Schneider
RE: HB 1486
Date: 2/1/2021

Dear House Industry, Business, and Labor members,

My name is Andy Schneider, and I have the privilege and honor of being the Sheriff of Grand Forks County. I come before you today to give testimony regarding why I am opposed to HB 1486 as written. This proposed bill brings forth concerns regarding the abilities of law enforcement to utilize critical technological opportunities when lives are at risk.

- **This bill will prevent law enforcement from utilizing technology to assist in locating individuals during emergent circumstances.**
- **It would prevent law enforcement's abilities to attempt to get an accurate location of suicidal subjects.**
- **It would prevent law enforcement's abilities to attempt to get an accurate location of missing persons.**
- **It requires law enforcement to verify that a serious medical emergency has already occurred, and not that one is occurring or is likely to occur.**
- **It would restrict law enforcement's abilities to attempt to identify last locations of individuals who are missing that are suffering from disabilities that have a history of wandering such as individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, and autism to name a few.**
 - **These conditions are not defined as medical emergencies that have occurred.**
- **When law enforcement responds to these issues, time is usually NOT on our side. These incidents require swift action and response to locate persons.**
- **The process of obtaining court orders, search warrants, or subpoenas is not timely.**
 - **Court orders and subpoenas can take days, if not weeks.**
 - **Search warrants can take several hours, if not days.**
 - **These options are not in the interest of public safety when it comes to locating missing persons, lost individuals, or suicidal subjects.**
- **The state should work with helping law enforcement have options and opportunities to locate suicidal, lost, and missing individuals instead of taking options away.**
- **Law enforcement entities typically use the wording, "To protect and serve".**
 - **Removing the abilities of law enforcement to potentially locate individuals by requesting the last location of their cell phone will make it harder for law enforcement to carry out the "protect" portion.**

The current version of this bill will create a disservice to the communities we are sworn to protect and serve. It creates a burden for law enforcement's ability to potentially save the lives of those lost, missing, or suicidal. I cannot support this bill as it is written. I encourage to committee to consider a do-not pass recommendation on this bill. Additionally, if the committee's desire is to

move forward I would request consideration in removing any and all wording that restricts law enforcement to utilizing this technology in such a narrow scope (medical emergency involving immediate danger of death or serious physical injury that has occurred, or the national center for missing and exploited children). The examples I provided are not all-inclusive of additional reasons that an agency would utilize a cellular device to assist in locating an individual, merely a few that commonly occur.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, feedback, or comments. I appreciate your service.

**Andy Schneider
Sheriff, Grand Forks County
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