

**Brandi Hardy**  
**Legislative Coordinator**  
**NDHRC**  
**March 8th, 2021**

**RE: Testimony in Support of HCR 3045**

Greetings Chairman Klemin and members of the Committee,

I am Brandi Hardy, the Legislative Coordinator for the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition.

I am here in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3045. A study of bias-motivated crimes committed in North Dakota on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry.

As you recall, before crossover this committee heard of HB 1443, a comprehensive, fully-inclusive bias crime protections to North Dakota law. During this hearing there was discussion and debate on the need for this type of law. In HCR 3045, sentences 5 - 15, address the concerns that were brought up at the previous hearing.

I want to restate a few points I made at the previous hearing to emphasize the necessity of this study. When we look at 2015 NCVS, which is the most recent data available, we see the national average being closer to 70 crimes per 100,000 persons over the age of 12. By using this data, ND could have expected approximately 446 hate crime cases in 2019, yet only 18 were reported. Meaning, the national estimate is about 29 times higher than reported cases in ND.

Currently, there is no standardized, mandated training for peace officers, on bias-motivated training. This means, peace officers in Fargo are receiving training that is different than peace officers in Mohall. When it comes to bias-motivated or hate crimes, law enforcement agencies should have the same standardized training and reporting expectations across the state.

House Concurrent Resolution will give us an accurate account on the training, responding, and reporting happening within all 109 law enforcement agencies in North Dakota. A thoughtful study, such as the one outlined in this resolution, will help our peace officers receive the proper training that establishes the framework from subjective reporting to objective reporting.

All North Dakota citizens should feel safe in our state, no matter their actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry. I urge the committee to vote DO PASS on House Concurrent Resolution 3045.

Thank you for your time. I stand for questions.

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