


SB 2233
House Political Subdivisions Committee
March 5, 2021
Neutral Testimony of Travis W. Finck, Executive Director,
North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents

Chairman Dockter, members of the House Political Subdivision Committee, my name is Travis Finck and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. The Commission is the state agency responsible for the delivery of indigent defense services in the State of North Dakota. I rise today to on behalf of the Commission on Legal Counsel to provide neutral/agency testimony.

The Commission believes SB 2233 has potential for positive impact on indigent defense in North Dakota. We are tasked with providing attorneys across the state of North Dakota to indigent defendants. It has proven to be very difficult to recruit attorneys to provide indigent defense services in rural areas. Often, we end up paying attorneys to travel vast distances to handle cases in rural areas because of the lack of available attorneys. The Commission is hopeful the rural attorney program laid out in SB 2233 would bring attorneys to those rural areas who may be willing to provide services on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, the Commission is neutral in this bill as the bill does not directly impact our agency. However, as established above, if this bill is passes and attorneys are brought to the rural communities, the Commission would be encouraged about the possibility of future partnerships with the Attorney recruitment program.

Respectfully Submitted



Travis W. Finck
Executive Director, NDCLCI