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## Testimony

### House Bill 1247 — Senate Human Services

3/30/2021

Good morning Chair Lee, and members of the committee. My name is Tara Lea Muhlhauser, Executive Director of CAWS ND (Lobbyist # 1035). We oppose this bill.

CAWS ND is a coalition of program in the state providing services for victims and survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking. I represent the 20 programs across the state of North Dakota.

The Department of Health has been the Administrator of our federal and state funds for four decades and we are grateful for their expertise. The “merger” bill is a monumental change for two entities. This construct of a merger impacts many areas of work. There simply has not been any significant opportunity to debate as citizens, taxpayers, and service providers. Please pause, deliver a plan, and help us to better understand how and why this merger would enrich our work as a state.

Thank you for this opportunity and if you have any questions, please let me know.