

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 1022**

House Appropriations – Government Operations Division

Hearing: January 13, 2023 8:30 a.m.

Testimony by Debra L. Hoffarth

I am a licensed attorney in the State of North Dakota and provide this written testimony in support of HB 1022. House Bill 1022 is a bill to provide appropriation to defray the expenses of the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. This bill will provide much needed funding for the indigent defense program in North Dakota. This program is critical to upholding the constitutional rights of North Dakota citizens. Providing this funding will help retain attorneys who provide legal services to those who cannot afford it, which is critical to North Dakota's justice system.

Please give HB 1022 a "do pass" recommendation.

Debra L. Hoffarth, Minot, ND

Ryan Sandberg, Minot, ND