

House Bill 1022

Testimony of Tony J. Weiler

House Appropriations-Government Operations Division

January 13, 2023

Representative Monson and Members of the House Education and Environmental Division of the House Appropriations Committee, my name is Tony Weiler, and I am the Executive Director of the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND).

SBAND is the professional association of over 3,000 licensed North Dakota lawyers. On behalf of SBAND President Jennifer Albaugh and our Board of Governors, I present this testimony in support of HB1022, the Budget Appropriation of the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. SBAND appreciates the work done by the Commission and its hard-working attorneys to uphold the Constitutional rights of those accused of a crime. The Commission needs the requested budget and increases to pay its attorneys a better wage, and to hire investigators to do the important work necessary in a criminal defense case.

It is vital to fund the Commission to the maximum extent possible. The State Bar Association encourages a Do Pass.

Tony Weiler

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