Domestic Violence Crisis Center

Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Inc.
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January 23, 2023

Chairman Klemin and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today to provide testimony in support of HB1269. My name is Jill McDonald, I am the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) in Minot. DVCC serves McHenry, Pierce, Renville, and Ward County. We are one of the organizations in our state that currently offers Domestic Violence Intervention Programming (DVIP).

DVCC has only had DVIP following the closure of Lutheran Social Services, as a victim services agency, we felt it was detrimental to the lives of victims to have a gap in this programming in our service area. Our program, Balanced Beginnings, has been offering 24-27 weeks of an evidence-based intervention to men convicted of domestic violence since August 2021. We see value in this programming and in the proposed changes in HB1269.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Crisis Centers work with individuals victimized in horrific ways. Their partner may be charged in several ways, including stalking, harassment, felonious restraint, aggravated assault, and, sadly, murder. Increasing the included crimes will encompass the variety of ways that domestic violence may present in the criminal justice system and will refer more participants to the class. It will continue to decrease violence in our community.

Adjusting the language from treatment to intervention better reflects what the programming offers. Intervention is critical to reducing violence patterns, and our program challenges the individuals ' beliefs system that allows them to inflict harm against their partner.

Additionally, changing from evaluation to assessment will adjust the perception that this is an illness or disease to be treated.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jill McDonald