

HB 1289  
House Judiciary Committee  
January 24, 2023  
Testimony of Todd N. Ewell, Deputy Director, NDCLCI

Good Morning. Chairman Klemin, members of the Committee, my name is Todd Ewell and I am the Deputy Director of the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents (hereinafter "the Commission"). We are the state agency responsible for the delivery of constitutionally mandated public defense services.

I rise today to in support of HB 1289. The Commission believes permitting drug court judges to waive fines, fees, and costs for successful drug court participants creates an incentive to successful completion. In addition, if the judge were to determine a participant is indigent, passage of this bill would avoid unnecessary court administrative time by attempting to collect on an account where collection is unlikely. On behalf of the Commission, I request a Do Pass recommendation for HB 1289.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Ewell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Todd N. Ewell, Deputy Director  
NDCLCI