

Greetings Chairman and Ranking Members,

Although not in-person, I want to express my gratitude for allowing me to submit written support and testimony for HB1518. My name is Tegan Amundson and I am writing to show my support for further protections for survivors of sexual violence in North Dakota. Not only as an individual, but as a family member, friend, and community supporter, I ask you to stand up for those who deserve unequivocal justice and support from the place they call home.

As a native of our great state, my whole life I have felt the love and support of my close-knit community. Yet, I have been witness to multiple loved one's who have survived sexual violence. Because even when safety seems tangible, ~76% of survivors knew their perpetrator. And as a young adult, it is even more disheartening to know that 83% of my peers who are 25 and under have experienced some form of sexual violence. This epidemic has found its way into schools, work, and personal spaces that should traditionally provide safety.

All of this is to say, sexual violence is a life-altering event for anyone to endure. By codifying further protections into our legislation, we can give survivors the right to justice that they deserve. Furthermore, by building out these protections, we are supporting a vision of a future in which survivors can hold their perpetrators accountable with no fear of backlash from a broken legal system. This issue is nationwide, but here in North Dakota HB1518 is offering an opportunity to implement changes that are critical to providing survivors with resources. I hope that you all will take this testimony and the others like it as proof that North Dakotans desire progress and treat this bill with the dedication that it deserves.

Best Regards,

Tegan Amundson