

March 12, 2023

House Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 2216

Chair Klemin and Committee Members,

My name is Amy Dalrymple and I'm editor of The Bismarck Tribune and past president of the North Dakota Newspaper Association.

I would like to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 2216. However, I only object to two words in the bill and I urge committee members to consider amending it.

I am in favor of protecting people's privacy, which is the primary objective of this bill. But as an advocate for open records, I believe there needs to be a balance between protecting privacy and preserving transparency and accountability.

I urge the committee to remove the words "the identity" from Page 2, Line 20. I do not see a public benefit in making the name of a police officer involved in a shooting or other critical incident a confidential record. The name would be a confidential record until the end of an internal investigation, which could take an unknown length of time.

I respectfully ask for an amendment on Senate Bill 2216 to remove those two words. Without an amendment, I would urge a Do Not Pass recommendation. I am unable to attend your hearing, but would be happy to answer questions at amy.dalrymple@bismarcktribune.com.

Thank you.

Amy Dalrymple
Past President, North Dakota Newspaper Association
Editor, Bismarck Tribune