

March 13, 2023

House Judiciary Committee SB 2216

CHAIRMAN KLEMIN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jack McDonald. I'm appearing this morning on behalf of the North Dakota Newspaper and Broadcasters Associations. I have also filed this testimony online so it should be in your magic machines.

We understand the reasons behind this bill, but believe it goes too far in hiding the names of law enforcement officers involved in these critical incidents.

These are public employees performing their public duties, and their identity should be available to the public as it is now. One of the reasons given for doing this is to protect the officers from being swamped with questions. They can always refuse to answer these questions. They do now.

Therefore, we are proposing just one tiny amendment that we believe will make the bill better. It's listed below and essentially would make the names of the officers public, but would keep their contact information confidential. We think this is the main intent of the bill. .

We would respectfully suggest the amendment below. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to work with the committee on amendments.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2216

Page 2, line 20, remove "the identity and"

Re-number accordingly