

**TESTIMONY OF  
JUDGE TRENT N. BARKUS  
BEFORE THE 68<sup>th</sup>  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION HOUSE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 5, 2023  
IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 2278**

Chairman Klemin, members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Trent Barkus, I'm the Municipal Judge in West Fargo and a Board Member of the Municipal Judge's Association. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2278.

The 81 Municipal Courts in North Dakota play a vital role in our communities and legal system. In West Fargo, we have over 3400 citations and 900 criminal filings in 2022. We are on course for nearly 4000 citations this year.

I ask for your favorable support of the bill and am pleased to stand for any questions you may have. Thank you.