

**Testimony of Susan Dollinger**  
**SB 2282 - House Judiciary Committee**  
**March 21, 2023**

Good Morning Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Susan Dollinger. I am here to testify in favor of SB2282. If you may recall, my daughter, Sydney and I both appeared in front of this Committee in January 2023 on HB1145.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I will try to be brief this morning because this is not my story to tell. What I want to do is present to you a timeline of her case in the criminal justice system showing that the length of time it took for her criminal case to reach its conclusion.

On September 27, 2020, my daughter was forcibly raped on the campus of North Dakota State University. This case became very complicated due to crossing multiple jurisdictional lines. The assault happened in Fargo, the rape kit was collected in Bismarck, and then she made her report to the Police in Minot two days later.

It took 6 months from the date of the attack just to get to the preliminary hearing and arraignment. After that, there was delay after delay. I could stand here for an hour and tell you all the ways the criminal justice system failed her, but I did say I would be brief, so I won't do that. It took 2 years and 3 months from the date of the attack to the day we received a verdict.

By that time, the 2-year statute of limitations had passed.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I stand before you and respectfully request this committee find a way to allow victims, like my daughter, access to the civil side of our court system. The delays that led to the expiration of the statute of limitations were no fault hers. Just like a backlog of testing of testing is no fault of other victims.

This Committee has already shown with HB1145 it is willing to find a way to help as many victims as possible to the best of its ability. I humbly request you find a way to do the same with SB2282.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.