

**House Bill 1022**

**Testimony of Tony J. Weiler**

**Senate Appropriations-Government Operations Division**

**March 7, 2023**

Senator Wanzek and Members of the Government Operations Division of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Tony Weiler, and I am the Executive Director of the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND).

SBAND is the professional association of over 3,000 licensed North Dakota lawyers. On behalf of SBAND President Jennifer Albaugh and our Board of Governors, I present this testimony in support of HB1022, the Budget Appropriation of the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. SBAND appreciates the work done by the Commission and its hard-working attorneys to uphold the Constitutional rights of those accused of a crime. The Commission needs the requested budget, primarily to increase pay for its attorneys, and to hire investigators to do the important work necessary in a criminal defense case.

It is vital to fund the Commission to the maximum extent possible. The State Bar Association encourages a Do Pass.

Tony Weiler

[tony@sband.org](mailto:tony@sband.org)

701-220-5846