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SHERIFF ANDY SCHNEIDER

To: Senate Appropriations – Human Resources Division Committee
From: Sheriff Andy Schneider
RE: HB 1004
Date: 3/7/2023

Chairman Dever and Committee Members,

Throughout the past 20-plus years, deputies of the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office have developed important relationships with advocates at the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC). This partnership has enabled us to provide more immediate support for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, all while reducing the risk of homicide and recidivism in our county.

Our relationship has allowed us to incorporate the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The LAP is an innovative, multi-pronged strategy to prevent domestic violence homicides. Deputies who respond to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents place calls while on scene directly to domestic violence advocates, any time of day or night. Our partners at CVIC report that victims are 50% more likely to seek services when law enforcement utilizes the Lethality Assessment Program. This partnership has also resulted in decreased lethality risk for victims. In 2021, nearly 200 persons were screened by law enforcement and nearly 60% of those were identified to be in a highly lethal situation. Impressively, 55 individuals in the most dangerous situations spoke with an advocate while law enforcement was still on scene with them.

From my perspective, this partnership is extremely vital for our community. The state funding needed to carry out important domestic violence intervention services is extremely important. Additional state funding is vital to support CVIC and its counterparts throughout the state who are working to reduce domestic violence.

I am respectfully asking for a do-pass on HB 1004. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Andy Schneider
Sheriff