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January 26th, 2023

Chair Dever and members of the Senate Appropriations - Human Resources Division:

I am Jim Vetter, Vice President of Treatment Services and Government Relations at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. I would like to express Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch's support of SB 2012, specifically for the Behavioral Health Division in relation to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) programs.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christ-centered residential treatment and educational center for children and their families. The Ranch gives children a safe place to live, learn, and heal. We provide exceptional and innovative trauma-informed care to kids and their families through Residential Treatment Facilities, Outpatient Psychiatric and Psychological Services, and Spiritual Life activities in Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot. In addition, Dakota Memorial School provides personalized education for kids who have psychiatric, behavioral, and trauma issues.

PRTF services for youth have a vital role in the continuum of care in North Dakota. The Ranch believes adding aftercare services will provide positive outcomes for North Dakota's youth. The Ranch plans to continue to work with Behavioral Health Division to provide aftercare services as well as provide our current treatment services in the upcoming biennium.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch encourages the committee to support an increased Behavioral Health budget to best serve North Dakota youth. Thank you so much for your time. I greatly appreciate your service to all the citizens of North Dakota. This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.