DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH

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February 1st, 2023

SB 2322

Dear Senator Lee,

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 2322 to aid with the critical mental health crisis in North Dakota. The Ranch is willing to help in any way we can to assist in this process. I believe this public/private partnership is what's needed to drive systemic change.

I do have a couple of comments on the bill. The membership part should spell out selection of private mental health providers. Private provider of children's mental health services, private provider of adult mental health services. There needs to be two or three private providers to make the public/private partnership work. They need to be truly private entities not just currently government granted privates.

10% matching funds for the grant would be a lot for a private provider. For instance, if the Ranch receives a million-dollar grant, we must then raise $100,000 in cash. An in-kind match may work better but would be challenging.

I would recommend the advisory committee be part of the grant awarding process. The DHHS standard RFP process restricts the granting practice. I would also recommend having someone from fiscal management, or perhaps the State Bank, review the RFP so that it is financially viable for the private provider within the terms of the grant.

Thank you for considering my comments. I greatly appreciate your service to all citizens of North Dakota.

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