

HB 1269  
68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 28, 2023  
Testimony of Travis W. Finck, Executive Director, NDCLCI

Madam Chair Larson, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Travis Finck and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. The Commission is the state agency responsible for delivery of public defense services in North Dakota. On behalf of the Commission, I offer this neutral testimony to HB 1269.

The Commission testified in opposition in the House. The Commission remains concerned about requiring persons who are convicted of criminal mischief against a family member from having to go to domestic violence treatment. However, we have worked with the bill sponsor to address some of the concerns by modifying the definition of “household or family member”. The Commission supports the amendment as proposed by Rep. Ista that would remove “those persons presently residing together”. This is commonly referred to as the roommate provision. If we add criminal mischief, we could end up with crazy results of a college roommate getting mad, breaking the x box controller of their roommate, and being forced to complete Domestic Violence Offender Treatment. Not only would that be an absurd result for the offender, but it would also serve to dilute the importance of the program for those who need the instruction.

Respectfully Submitted:



Travis W. Finck  
Executive Director, NDCLCI