

ENGROSSED HB 1277
Senate Judiciary Committee
March 29, 2023
Travis W. Finck, Executive Director, NDCLCI

Good Morning. Madam Chair Larson, members of the Committee, my name is Travis Finck and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents (hereinafter "the Commission"). The Commission is the state agency that provides indigent defense services when there is a constitutional, statutory or constitutional right to counsel. The Commission rises in support of HB 1277 and urges a DO PASS recommendation.

The Commission believes by enabling drug court judges and staff authority to suspend the requirements of the twenty-four seven program, we provide those teams important tools to incentivize completion. Drug Courts have been an invaluable tool in North Dakota in an effort to rehabilitate non-violent offenders who struggle with addiction. The attorneys and those who provide services on behalf of the Commission have seen the great work and impact drug courts have had on our clients' lives. HB 1277 is just another incentive to complete the drug court program while continuing to meet the treatment needs of drug court participants.

In addition to incentivizing the participants, this option would allow them to test their sobriety tools while still under the close eye and supervision of the drug court. Allowing them to put into practice the tools they have obtained prior to being released from the Drug Court. Therefore, on behalf of the Commission, I request a Do Pass recommendation for HB 1277.

Respectfully Submitted:



Travis W. Finck
Executive Director, NDCLCI