

January 4, 2023

Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 2107

Sen. Larson, Chair

For the record, I am Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson. I am appearing on behalf of the Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota. I am also the deputy director and attorney for the North Dakota League of Cities.

The Chiefs of Police appear today in support of SB 2107. The bill enhances the penalty for several troubling crimes. If you talk to any law enforcement officer, he or she would likely tell you that the instances of encountering violence and fleeing has increased greatly over the past several years. The Bismarck Police Department numbers comparing 2021 to 2022 from some of the crimes in this bill found:

Offense	2021	2022	% Change
Aggravated Assault on Law Enforcement	2	5	150%
Assault on Law Enforcement	33	56	70%
Fleeing (1st Offense)	13	26	100%
Fleeing (Subsequent)	86	76	-12%
Fleeing (After Felony)	6	8	33%

I frequently hear how seeing individuals who have been convicted of these dangerous crimes on the street after a short amount of time is causing morale issues with law enforcement officers. The morale issue in turn cause recruitment and retention issues. On top of that, it is making the job of protecting and serving our cities as law enforcement officers more dangerous.

The Chiefs of Police request a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2107 to create some deterrence from committing these crimes and to help keep law enforcement officers safe.

Thank you for your consideration.