



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony In Opposition to Senate Bill #2188
1-17-23

Madame Chairman, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Greg Kasowski, and I'm the executive director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota. I appear today in opposition to Senate Bill 2188, specifically Section 1, subsection 2.

As many of you are aware, Children's Advocacy Centers provide services to children who are victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and other forms of child maltreatment. One of the core services we offer is sexual assault medical exams for children, often referred to as "SANE exams" (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner exams).

The proposed legislation would be troublesome for situations when the alleged offender of a sexual crime is both of the parents OR the sole parent of the child. Receiving parental consent for a child's SANE exam is not practical in these situations.

Century Code 14-10-17.1 does allow young victims, ages 14-17, to receive a SANE exam without consent from their parent or guardian, as long as reasonable steps are taken to notify the victim's parent or guardian.

However, for children ages 13 or younger, when both or the sole parent is the alleged offender, the Department of Health and Human Services takes custody and signs the consent. We believe this to be a sensible solution for a child while in the midst of an incredibly difficult circumstance.

It is important to note, for all SANE exams we do request consent from the child as well, because we would never force an exam on any child.

I respectfully ask the committee to recommend a DO NOT PASS to SB 2188.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Greg Kasowski
Executive Director

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