



Sheriff's Department



Robert Roed
Sheriff

January 23rd, 2023

Chairman Larson and members of the committee,

Hello, my name is Taylor Schiller and I am testifying in support of Senate bill 2213. I am a detective with the Ward County Sheriff's Department and currently a member of the North Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

In 2012, I started my career in law enforcement. Most of the work I did back then was patrol work. This would include writing minor traffic tickets, responding to medical calls, domestic violence calls, minor traffic crashes, fatal traffic crashes, suicides, child abuse calls and so on.

On patrol, I always wondered when "the worst call" would come. The call that would stick with me, where I couldn't deal with the stresses on my own and needed to reach out for help.

In 2020, I was assigned as a detective for the Ward County Sheriff's Department. While working as a detective, I was assigned a child exploitation case. I listened to the victims discuss the horrific things they went through. I put my detective hat on and did what any other officer would do and ultimately arrested the suspect. "I was fine".

Several months passed and I reviewed the case at our local children's advocacy center, as we did with any case. This one was different. No longer could I listen to the details of the case without crying (and I'm not a crier). I found "my worst call". I dealt with "the call" my own way, by confiding in my support system. If I didn't have that support system or felt comfortable enough to talk, where would I have gone? Having someone to talk to that can relate to the stresses of working in law enforcement, like a peer support team or a trained counselor, is crucial.

I have seen several friends in law enforcement suffer from substance abuse, financial issues, marital problems and diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their law enforcement experiences. Unfortunately, a colleague of mine took his own life in late December. This shocked my law enforcement family, not only because we lost one of our own but because it's a reminder that we aren't invincible, as much as some of us think we are. Thank you.

Taylor Schiller, Detective
Ward County Sheriff's Department