

Dear Chairman Larson and members of the Committee. My name is Lee Rebsom. I am here to voice support for SB 2282. When our daughter A [REDACTED] was 17 we committed her into the mental health unit in Dickinson because she was exhibiting suicidal tendencies. A [REDACTED] revealed during therapy sessions that she had been raped by a student teacher when she was 10 years of age. My wife and I were totally unaware of the sexual assault inflicted upon our daughter. Who could even imagine something like that! She was again sexually assaulted by a male nurse at the hospital. When A [REDACTED] reported the sexual assault, we were told by staff at the hospital it was probably a dream. We were proud of her for reporting the assault and assumed that the hospital had done a thorough investigation of the allegation. We believed A [REDACTED] but again assumed the hospital had not found enough evidence to pursue the male nurse. A year later A [REDACTED] discovered that a 14 year old girl had been assaulted by the same male nurse who had assaulted her and the nurse was pleading innocent to the charges. A [REDACTED] wanted to help her. My wife and A [REDACTED] decided to call the police and request an investigation into her sexual assault committed by the same male nurse against her. "Somebody had to believe her." When the investigation was completed the evidence was indisputable and we were invited to join in the lawsuit with the 14 year old girls family. It was a very tough decision but we decided too not join in the lawsuit against the hospital. A [REDACTED] would not have withstood the pressure of having to testify in court. "Our main focus was keeping her alive." We have been making payments on the hospital bill for 29 years and are reminded every month of the hospital's incompetence and disregard for our daughter. We had entrusted the hospital with our daughter's care, well being and safety and they wouldn't even investigate a serious allegation against one of their staff. Criminal justice for the traumatic events incurred by our daughter are unattainable. The system allows sexual predators to evade justice while the victims are subjected to a lifetime of anguish because of the sexual assault. Civil Justice is all that could be pursued if this bill is passed. A [REDACTED] has been suffering from PTSD for the majority of her life and our hope is that any kind of justice will give her some relief. I urge you to support this bill – it's not true justice but it is all we have left. Thank you. Lee Rebsom (retired) Dickinson, ND