

**Testimony**  
**HB 1285—Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**  
**Senate State and Local Government**  
**Senator Kristin Roers, Chair**  
**March 24, 2023**

Chair Roers, and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee—I am Dave Krabbenhoft, the Director of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) and I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 1285.

The DOCR is responsible for the direction and general administrative supervision, guidance, and planning of adult and juvenile correctional facilities and programs within the state. As noted in NDCC 54-23.3-02, the purpose of the DOCR is to:

1. To develop a statewide correctional philosophy that will provide direction, goals, and standards for corrections.
2. To provide for the care, custody, discipline, training, and treatment of persons committed to state correctional facilities and programs.
3. To coordinate and provide a continuum of correctional services to both adult and juvenile clients.
4. To promote and develop close communication and mutual understanding of corrections issues and concerns between the courts and the department.
5. To provide joint training of staff and career opportunities for corrections staff.
6. To work with local and state entities to develop alternatives to conventional incarceration for those offenders who can be dealt with more effectively in less restrictive, community-based facilities and programs.

This responsibility and purpose places the DOCR in the unique position to identify areas of inconsistency and obsolescence, and to suggest areas of potential improvement and coordination within the Century Code. Limiting the DOCR's ability to independently develop and submit proposed changes to the Century Code, would negatively impact its ability to incorporate efficiencies and to implement improvements to State's correctional system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.