

Good morning my name is Jesse Jahner and I am the elected Sheriff in Cass County North Dakota. I testify this morning in support of House Bill 2131 to move the State crime lab under the Attorney General's Office direction. As most of you know over the past few years law enforcement in North Dakota has experienced difficulties and extreme wait times receiving evidentiary results back from the State Crime Lab. At a time when our state is growing and we are continuing to see increases in criminal activity, in the wake of shootings, thefts, sexual assaults, narcotics activity, trafficking, and overdoses, being able to receive evidentiary results in a timely manner is extremely important. If we do not get this information back timely a suspect may not be identified and can victimize others for several months. In some instances, we have experienced over a 6 month waiting time for results in the wake of DNA and fingerprints. In addition, our crime lab doesn't possess the ability to process firearms. In fact we do not even know where we can send firearms to in order to get evidentiary

results back and as most of you know we have seen an uptick in the amount of shootings we have had in the Fargo area. This has severely crippled law enforcements ability to investigate, and locate suspects in a timely manner and bring justice to our citizens and victims. It has been extremely embarrassing to tell our victims while investigating a scene or gathering evidence that our state crime lab may not be able to process the evidence we are collecting. In my conversations with victims I believe this has caused them to lose faith in our criminal justice system and in our law enforcement personnel. North Dakota is continuing to grow and with that growth we are going to see an increase in criminal activity. If we do not address the crime lab or get a handle on this issue we are soon going to be in a position where we can no longer Investigate criminal activity. Those wanting to commit crimes are going to thrive and continue to victimize others. Moving the crime lab under the Attorney Generals direction will get the lab back on track and will help restore faith in law enforcements ability to

investigate crimes. The Attorney General has visited with a number of law enforcement personnel and understands our needs. I respectfully ask for you to support House Bill 2131 so we can start efficiently and effectively investigate criminal activity.