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**SENATE STATE & LOCAL
SENATOR KRISTIN ROERS, CHAIR**

**SENATE BILL 2318
FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

LEE ANN OLIVER, SECRETARY OF STATE

Chairman Roers and members of the committee, for the record, Lee Ann Oliver with the elections division of the Secretary of State.

Our office is currently tracking 41 bills related to elections. Of that number, 27 percent (11 bills) are campaign finance related. Senate Bill 2318 is focused on aggregate expenditures made by individuals or through political committees.

Our office is not against transparency and prides itself on working with the legislature, as well as the public, on providing a transparent system that shows who is funding and influencing candidates, political parties, and measure campaigns.

Due to the numerous bills this session that examine campaign finance laws, we would encourage the legislative assembly to consider an interim study to look at North Dakota's campaign finance laws and systems. If all of them were to pass, it would create a ball of wires within Century Code and our system that would be impossible to enforce and a burden to implement with our technology.

Chairman Roers, this bill will certainly require a new campaign finance system to be implemented. We have made that request in SB 2002. But if that request isn't appropriated, this bill will certainly not be able to be implemented and enforced by our office. The study would ensure that whatever changes are considered are adequately scoped in our preparation for a new system.

Madam Chairman, members of the committee, I urge you to consider amending this bill into an interim study that looks at our campaign finance laws.