

TO: North Dakota Senate- State and Local Government Committee
DATE: 2/6/2023
RE: SCR 4007

Senator Roers and committee members,

Hello, my name is Tina Guthmiller and I have been active in Search and Rescue with my nationally certified cadaver K9 for about 6 years. I grew up in Burke County and have a love for the western part of our state. I am writing in support of SCR 4007. I believe it is much needed in this state. I have found that many agencies do not realize that there are local people to the state that study, train and execute search and rescue procedures. The only area that has anything of the sort is the eastern side of the state and as I have found, this is just not enough for our state of North Dakota as it can take 6 hours to get across the state. Also, there is usually some red tape that has to be crossed before any deployment can take place. This also is not a search and rescue team, it is a dive team with one or two K9s.

I have conducted searches with my cadaver K9 on the Missouri River and Lake Metigoshe in our state. I was asked each time by the family and went on my own accord. I was also a day or more out from when the events actually took place. My K9 did have some success, without going into detail, but it is so pertinent to be able to have search and rescue with their trained knowledge and certified K9s to be on scene immediately. I have been able to be on scene in the eastern part of the state immediately with positive results. The family is the utmost importance in these situations and the faster we can rescue or recover a beloved family member the best it is for everyone involved.

I have deep respect for the MHA Nation and their K9 capabilities as a couple relate to what my cadaver K9 does too. I also have a positive association with Badlands Search and Rescue and I totally support the work they are doing as a team and in working with the state supporting this bill. I think it is important for all of North Dakota to come together and be able to work as a team when needed. I know jurisdictions apply, but allowing Search and Rescue teams to operate in the state will make the tough jobs of finding people just a bit easier. I was disappointed when I saw MN teams called in to our state when we have the same capabilities as they do but just aren't widely known in North Dakota. I have done searches with these teams and trainings, etc. We have the talented people right here in North Dakota and we all have the same goals. We also love the people in our great state of North Dakota!

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