

To: North Dakota Senate – State and Local Government Committee
Date: 2/5/2023
RE: SCR 4007

Senator Roers and committee members,

Greetings, my name is Gus Nelson, from Watford City and I submit this testimony in favor of SCR 4007. I am the vice president of Badlands Search and Rescue and have been a board member since 2019 and also a member of the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of North Dakota.

As I have lived in the western North Dakota badlands my whole life, I recognize the absolute abundance of outdoor activities to be partaken in, from hunting and fishing, to hiking, horseback riding, and much more.

Being said, it was always a custom of our community to step up and lend a hand to those in need, whether it's of a neighbor, family member, or a total stranger.

After finding out there was a Search and Rescue organization in my locale, I didn't hesitate to submit my application. As the seasons and years progressed, I began to notice some discrepancies in the S.O.P. (standard operational procedure) between the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) instruction and what we as a team were encountering in regard to search initiation and structure.

In regard to SCR 4007, my hope is that we as a state can come together and work united to further educate and train civilian SAR volunteers, law enforcement, as well as the general public, to know there are individuals who will answer a call for help.

Thank you for your consideration,

August W. Nelson
VP-BSAR
"In Omnia Paratus"