

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS – GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION
REPRESENTATIVE JON NELSON, CHAIR
JANUARY 23, 2025**

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
PRESENTING TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1016**

Chairman Nelson and members of the House Appropriations – Government Operations Division, I am Colby Braun, Director of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR). Today, I submit this written testimony in support of House Bill 1016, which allows State Radio to obtain a new State Interoperation Radio Network (SIRN) system.

The State Interoperation Radio Network (SIRN) will provide much needed interoperability amongst law enforcement agencies which was evident during past emergency situations. The North Dakota Parole and Probation division, along with others, struggled to maintain communication with other agencies during these important times of response. This funding requested will enhance officer safety and communication with a purpose of ensuring highly reliable and redundant communication capabilities for the statewide public safety community. This funding will continue to modernize and provide a feature-rich and highly available network to meet the mission-critical communication needs of the public safety community. Some of the goals of SIRN were to resolve interoperability challenges, increase radio coverage, decrease the number of disparate radio systems, and modernize the features and functionality of the radio network. With the additional funding requests this will allow State Radio to continue to work towards meeting these goals. All these added features will greatly assist our North Dakota Parole and Probation officers in their ability to assist other agencies, continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and offer us support and assistance when situations arise.

Chairman Nelson and members of the House Appropriations – Government Operations Division, I ask that you support House Bill 1016.