

Testimony prepared for:
House Appropriations – Human Resources Division
Donnell Preskey, NDACo
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Re: HB 1012 – DHHS Children & Family Services Budget

Chair Nelson and committee members, as the Executive Director for the North Dakota Sheriff's and Deputies Association, I am providing testimony in support of House Bill 1012, specifically as it relates the funding for shelter care for Children in Need Services (CHINS). Currently, DHHS Children and Family Services covers all of the costs of shelter care for CHINS youth except for the first 24 hours of a placement made by local law enforcement. Although CHINS youth are not part of the juvenile justice system, there are times when law enforcement responds to situations involving CHINS youth that may result in a temporary placement in shelter care (i.e. runaway or ungovernable situations that involve parent/child conflict). Shelter care provides a safe place for CHINS youth to go so that law enforcement can get back to their regular duties, but the costs should be picked up by DHHS Children and Family Services, consistent with all other CHINS placements that are not made by law enforcement.

In addition, local law enforcement already covers the placement costs of delinquent youth who are part of the justice system; they should not have to cover the costs of CHINS youth who are not.

Mr. Chairman and committee we ask for your support of HB 1012 as it relates to the funding for shelter care costs for CHINS youth.