



521 E Main Ave, Suite 320
Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701.255.6240
Toll Free: 888.255.6240

nddsvc.org
contact@nddsvc.org

February 4th, 2025

Representative Jon Nelson, Chairman
North Dakota State Legislature
House Appropriations Committee, Human Resources Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

Law enforcement agencies across the state collaborate almost daily with domestic violence and sexual assault agencies in our local communities. These collaborative relationships have grown significantly throughout the past 40 plus years, with law enforcement agencies and domestic violence/sexual assault organizations working closely together for the safety of citizens and their children, while holding individuals responsible for these crimes accountable.

Our organizations work together for mutual benefit by providing shared training to staff, attending collaborative meetings, tracking criminal justice data, and making criminal justice system improvements on an ongoing basis.

When a sexual assault is reported, many of our communities activate a Sexual Assault Response Team. These multidisciplinary teams include members from law enforcement, medical professionals and advocates, responding together to ensure that victims of this invasive crime repeat the accounts of their experience the least number of times possible. This coordination ensures that evidence is collected, the chain of custody is followed, and evidence is preserved for prosecution, all while providing a trauma-informed response that gives victims the support they need.

In cases of domestic violence, officers respond in the heat of the moment during times of elevated risk to themselves and victims and must make decisions that protect the safety of all. Several communities participate in the Lethality Assessment Program, connecting victims of violence with a domestic violence advocate at the time of the incident, increasing awareness of safety services available to them while decreasing the likelihood that they will be killed during a future incident.

Law enforcement also supports the work of domestic violence and sexual assault organizations by responding to requests for welfare checks, providing police escorts in high danger situations, responding to security threats at shelters and offices when needed, serving and enforcing protection orders and much more. Related, our organizations count on the services of these agencies to provide safety, support, and guidance after our officers and deputies leave the scene. Through long-term support provided by domestic violence and sexual assault organizations, these complex patterns can be interrupted. The risk to victims and communities can be lessened through successful investigation, prosecution and ultimately rehabilitation for those who use violence.

The below undersigned fully support increased funding for the critical services provided by domestic violence and sexual assault agencies in our state.





521 E Main Ave, Suite 320
Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701.255.6240
Toll Free: 888.255.6240

nddsv.org
contact@nddsv.org

Respectfully submitted,

- Matthew Anderson, Chief, Wahpeton Police Department DocuSigned by: Matthew Anderson
1CB2BE7A6F06479...
- Corey Bristol, Sheriff, Mountrail County Sheriff's Office
- Joe Cianni, Chief, Dickinson Police Department DocuSigned by: Joe Cianni
344445041254A...
- Dave Draovitch, Chief, Bismarck Police Department DocuSigned by: Dave Draovitch
13B8A5E4AD7398D...
- Jason Freedman, Chief, Grand Forks Police Department DocuSigned by: Jason Freedman
0CC1259990C598D...
- Steve Gutknecht, Interim Chief, Williston Police Department DocuSigned by: Steve Gutknecht
E90361E71E0A4F9...
- Jesse Jahner, Sheriff, Cass County Sheriff's Office
- Matthew Johansen, Sheriff, McKenzie County Sheriff's Office DocuSigned by: MATTHEW JOHANSEN
2E148AB1ADB647B...
- Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, Walsh County Sheriff's Office DocuSigned by: Ron Jurgens
B3E75E5F8ACB4D2...
- Verlan Kvande, Sheriff, Williams County Sheriff's Office
- Bryan Lang, Sheriff, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office DocuSigned by: Bryan Lang
7C759E84209411D...
- Kelly Leben, Sheriff, Burleigh County Sheriff's Office
- Corey Lee, Sheriff, Stark County Sheriff's Office Signed by: Corey Lee
5BDDF63A7818419...
- Kevin Litten, Chief, Stanley Police Department
- Pete Nielsen, Chief, West Fargo Police Department
- Jon Oien, Chief, Lisbon Police Department Signed by: Jon Oien
4644AFAC4B5C1C3...
- Jeff Osvold, Chief, Cavalier Police Department Signed by: Jeff Osvold
7C759E84209411D...
- Dale Plessas, Interim Chief, Minot Police Department Signed by: Dale Plessas
C1F0841E589C4C5...
- Gary Ruhl, Sheriff, Richland County Sheriff's Office
- Andy Schneider, Sheriff, Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office Signed by: Andy Schneider
E35ABD85F9AD483...
- Kurt Schwind, Sheriff, Nelson County Sheriff's Office
- Jason Toso, Chief, Devils Lake Police Department Signed by: Jason Toso
4644AFAC4B5C1C3...
- Nick Throntveit, Sheriff, Burke County Sheriff's Office DocuSigned by: Nick Throntveit
7C759E84209411D...
- Jesse Wellen, Chief, Watford City Police Department DocuSigned by: Jesse A Wellen
43320B1DD6D83454...
- Matthew Wright, Sheriff, Cavalier County Sheriff's Office
- David Zibolski, Chief, Fargo Police Department

CC: Seth O'Neill, Executive Director, North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition and
Coiya Tompkins Inman, Chair, Coalition Legislative Committee and President/CEO,
Community Violence Intervention Center (a coalition member program)

