

All,

My name is Lyle Sinclair. I am here as the President of the North Dakota Law Enforcement Canine Association; I am here today in support of House Bill 1371.

I have over 31 years of Law Enforcement service and over 21 years in the police k9 industry in North Dakota. Over the years, I have attended K9 trainings across the country becoming friends with a lot of the K9 instructors. I often bring these instructors to North Dakota for our local K9 teams to learn from. Not only do I try to improve police K9's in North Dakota but policing in general. I often ask questions regarding how their respective departments operate. Most of the instructors I bring here are nearing retirement, as am I, so retirement is often a topic of our discussions.

One K9 instructor recently retired from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office after a long career. The deciding factor for him back in 1992, between Los Angeles Police Department, who paid more, and Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, who paid less, was simple. It was full medical insurance after working 25 years is why he chose the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office.

Another K9 instructor from the Phoenix Valley, explained to me some departments in their area have started to offer medical insurance after 20 years of service as a recruitment and retention tool. The other departments in the area that do not offer similar assistance are finding it harder to recruit and retain high-quality candidates.

House Bill 1371 will be money well invested, giving North Dakota the opportunity to not only retain our outstanding current law enforcement officers but will also incentivize and recruit potential candidates from across the country. House Bill 1371 will give back to those law enforcement officers who have given this great state so much.

Respectfully,

Lyle Sinclair