

Cheryl Harlow  
107 Maple Street, Apt 203  
Park River, ND 58270

1/21/2025

Chairperson Ruby and Members of the Human Services Committee

Re: Support for HB1337 – Funding Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment in County Jails

My name is Cheryl Harlow, and I live in Park River, ND. I am on the Walsh County Substance Abuse Coalition Committee through my current employer Northern Plains Railroad, Inc. and affiliated companies. I am also the DER/Designated Employer Representative since 2014 and manage all aspects of DOT and Not-Dot drug and alcohol program compliance, including refineries in ND, MN, WI and UT.

I am writing to demonstrate my strong support for HB1337.

My support for HB1337 associates personal accounts with the people in my life. The testimonies submitted explain why we need this bill passed, but we also must know who benefits. My family and your family. My friends and their families and your friends and your friends' families. My coworkers and my coworkers' families and your coworkers and your coworkers' families. My community and your community.

Our communities' benefit by having offenders go through comprehensive behavioral health programs funded by HB1337 to help allow reintegrating people back into society so they can find stable housing, employment and avoid returning to jail. It may be their *only* opportunity when circumstances have them living in survival mode and not functioning in healthy environments and relationships. Learning life coping skills reduces recidivism and saves more people from being victimized and lowers incarceration costs.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. If this bill is passed, we all benefit.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Harlow