

**Support SB 2292
North Dakota Senate Human Services Committee**

March 12, 2025

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Kristie Wolff, I am the Communications Coordinator for Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners (CDFNE).

CDFNE is one of the organizations who receives reimbursement funding through the \$660,000 forensic medical exams appropriation, and I am providing testimony today in support of SB 2292.

CDFNE is a North Dakota based non-profit organization providing forensic medical services to children and adult survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, physical abuse, and neglect in western North Dakota. Our organization serves 23 counties, with our headquarters in Bismarck.

Forensic medical exams are a critical part of the healing process and provide essential evidence collection for the pursuit of justice for survivors. Both state and federal law prevent survivors of sexual violence or their insurance from being charged for a forensic medical exam. Funding forensic medical services through an appropriate source, such as the General Fund, is vital—not only for survivors but also for our state. Maintaining this funding ensures that North Dakota remains eligible for federal STOP grants, which require states to fully cover the cost of forensic medical exams for survivors of sexual violence. These grants directly support programs that improve responses to violence and empower survivors to seek justice. In 2023 alone, North Dakota received \$918,699 through these federal funds, and in 2022 North Dakota received \$846,364.

SB 2292 is important to securing the future of forensic medical services for survivors in our state and ensuring compliance with federal requirements.

Today I ask for a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2292.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

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