

01/12/2025



FROM THE DESK OF ADAM MARTIN FOUNDER AND CEO OF F5 PROJECT

Chairman Klemin and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Adam Martin, and I am the Founder and CEO of the F5 Project, an organization dedicated to supporting individuals impacted by the justice system. We provide essential services to help people find recovery, secure housing, gain employment, and remain law-abiding.

Today, I am here to advocate for a DO PASS on HB 1166. Many, including myself, have greatly benefited from the Criminal Record Seal law. Recently, I received a pardon from Governor Burgum, a significant milestone that represents the hard work we have all put into turning our lives around. For many of us, this was a hopeful step towards finally allowing background checks to reflect our progress, enabling us to secure housing and employment without the barriers of past records.

However, we have faced ongoing frustration. Despite receiving a pardon, I discovered that nothing has been removed from the North Dakota Courts database. The only change made was the addition of a note in my court documents indicating that I was pardoned. This information is buried within the details of each document, and does not truly erase the stigma of guilt that still lingers.

It is particularly disheartening that individuals who have been wrongfully accused, found not guilty, or had their cases dismissed must also grapple with the existence of these court records. We are advocating for a system that recognizes and supports the journeys of those who have worked hard to rebuild their lives. Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Adam Martin, Founder and CEO of F5 Project

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Martin'.

