

House Bill No. 1231
House Judiciary Committee
Written Testimony Presented Seth O'Neill, JD, MSW
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Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Seth O'Neill and I am representing the North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition in opposition to House Bill 1231.

This bill would allow a sex offender to petition a court to end their time of sex offender registration early. This is concerning because it could allow an individual who is risk to the public to not be required to register. Additionally, only the last known victim is required to be notified, not all victims of a sex offender.

In addition, during the hearing to determine whether or not to relieve the sex offender of the duty to register, this bill allows the sex offender to motion the court to close the hearing to the public. If a sex offender wishes to explain how they are not a risk to the public, the public deserves to hear their testimony to be confident in the process. This bill would also allow the court to exclude the victim from the court hearing "to protect the offender's right to privacy." Again, the offender should not have a right to privacy when they are explaining to the court why they are not a risk to the public.

Due to these reasons, we encourage the committee to give HB 1231 a Do-Not-Pass Recommendation.

