

HB1425

Thank you for allowing me to share in support of this bill.

My knowledge of DOC(R?) is limited to my mentorship (surrogate Grandma) of a three time nonviolent male felon who is just over 30 years old. I don't understand the logic for time spent in jail after an arrest and before a court hearing – weeks or months later. I thought we were to presume innocence until proven guilty.

This initial jail time introduces the arrestee to a whole new set of “criminals”, may result in job loss, will result in disruption of home life, may result in lost housing. It was very sad for me to see young moms or moms-to-be visiting a young man in Cass County Jail. So much better to hurry up the decision regarding the charges and offer support before or instead of incarceration. Overall cost to the taxpayer will be less in the long run if we re-direct the lives of arrestees through ambitious support services and case managers or even mentors. This could make a difference to the supposed thousands of unfilled jobs in North Dakota if the Department of Commerce were involved.

I believe that most of those arrested began life with more chaos than security. Passage of this bill can diminish the likelihood of the next generation also dealing with more chaos than security.

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