

Feb 17, 2025

HCR 3028

North Dakota House Judiciary Committee

Testimony from Amy Boyd, Anti-Trafficking Program Manager, Youthworks

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Boyd-Bolme; I am the Anti-Trafficking Program Manager for Youthworks. I am submitting neutral testimony today for House Concurrent Resolution 3028. Youthworks is a 501(c)3 non-profit providing youth and family services throughout North Dakota since 1986. Offices are in Fargo, Minot, Grand Forks, and Bismarck with services extending to the surrounding counties. Youthworks' focus and expertise is working with homeless, runaway, trafficked and struggling teens as well as parents and young adults 24 years of age and under. Since 2015, Youthworks has been the recipient of state and federal funds to combat Human Trafficking in North Dakota. The federal dollars that Youthworks receives are from the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). In the last biennium, Youthworks' Anti-trafficking team served 147 youth (ages 12-24), provided 400 hours of clinical services, and responded to 1,800 hours of crisis intervention. Most of the youth served were survivors of other crime, with child sexual abuse, child abuse/neglect, and family violence being the most common. Of the youth victims served at Youthworks, 48 were also experiencing

homelessness. Youthworks provided these youth with additional housing support, including 3,196 nights of housing.

Youthworks is committed to working with trafficking survivors from the moment that they are identified, as they work to reclaim their lives and go through the legal process as their trafficker is prosecuted. Learning how to live independently after being trafficked is incredibly difficult and is one of the primary skills that Youthworks Anti-Trafficking Specialists assist with. This process is not linear and requires time and patience. It can take years for trafficking survivors to move forward.

In the event that this resolution results in a legislative study, Youthworks looks forward to assisting with providing expertise and data with the study members.