

**Testimony To the
House Political Subdivisions Committee On HB 1197**

Good afternoon, Chairman Longmuir and members of the committee. My name is Amy Suda, and I am a member of the Walsh County Commission.

I strongly support HB1197 that will provide a funding source to allow us to proceed with building/maintaining a 48 bed jail in Walsh County, specifically Grafton, ND.

Our jail is 50 years old as of 2025 and as with 24 hour care facilities similar to a nursing home, the average life expectancy is more in line with 20-25 years; thus the deterioration of the building is becoming more and more apparent. The DOCR is only allowing our current jail to remain open due to the fact that we are proceeding with plans to build a new jail. If we have to close our current the jail, the costs to transport prisoners out of the county will not only cost us ridiculous amounts of taxpayer money but also safety with our deputies spending their time driving across the state versus protecting the citizens of Walsh County.

As a nurse & business owner in the community, as well as a long standing citizen of Walsh County; law, order, and safety is of the utmost importance to myself, my family, and in our communities. As an elected official, I feel strongly about the responsibility to ensure we have law and order as a top priority.

I strongly urge the committee to support HB1197 and recommend its passage. This bill is a meaningful step toward improving safety to our communities and a more sustainable justice system for Walsh County and other Counties/Cities in ND facing the same problems!

If you need any further information or have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at my contact information listed below.
Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
Amy Suda, MSN, FNP-C, DCNP
Walsh County Commissioner