

North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association

January 27, 2025

To: Judiciary Committee
Hon. Chairman Klemin
Hon. Vice-Chair Vetter
Members of the Committee

RE: House Bill No. 1399

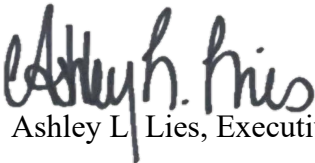
Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chair Vetter, and Members of the House Judiciary:

The North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association (NDSAA) is submitting this letter asking for a **DO PASS** on House Bill 1399. This Bill was sponsored by Chairman Klemin at the request of our Association.

Currently, each of our counties is allotted \$25,000.00 from the Attorney General for witness reimbursement. In larger counties, this budget is expended very quickly while some smaller counties may never use even a dollar of their budget. Our proposal would, first, increase the allotted amount to \$30,000.00 as this allotment has not been increased in a number of years. Second, it would allow our counties to enter into an agreement with each other to share unused funds with the approval of the Attorney General. For larger counties (like Ward County) that use up their budget every year, this would allow them to work with the counties that aren't using their budget to move their appropriation over. Additionally, for smaller counties, the benefit is that while they may not annually use much of their allotment, should a large case arise, they may need to access these funds and allowing them the opportunity to share with another county is in the best interests of all our citizens.

We appreciate your time and consideration and ask that you issue a **DO PASS** on House Bill 1399.

On behalf of the North Dakota State's Attorneys:



Ashley L. Lies, Executive Director