

NORTH DAKOTA SENATE INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1/21/2025

Senate Bill 2181

To: Chairman Jeff Barta and members of the Industry and Business Committee

From: Aaron Moss – North Dakota Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge, Sergeant at Arms
(Lobbyist 1531)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2181. The North Dakota Fraternal Order of Police supports this bill and urges a DO PASS to the Senate Floor.

The presence of debilitating mental injuries suffered by law enforcement officers across the country is increasing at alarming rates. North Dakota is unfortunately not immune from these devastating injuries. While statistical accuracy of precise numbers of officers afflicted with all manner of mental injuries, not only PTSD, are difficult to demonstrate due to non-uniform data collection and analysis, the numbers of completed suicides continue to rise. Nationwide estimates, by the National Fraternal Order of Police, incidents of officers taking their own lives occur at rates consistently fifty percent higher the rest of the population. In North Dakota, in the last two years, five officers have taken their own lives.

What has become clear is that the patchwork of policies, procedures, and programs to address mental health challenges of our officers across the Peace Garden State, not enough is being done. This bill stands as a commitment by its sponsors to take seriously the responsibility we all share in caring for those whom our communities rely on to keep our neighborhoods and roads safe when those Peace Officers suffer a PTSD injury in the line of duty. When our officers are supported after injuries in the line of duty, without having to worry about how or where they will receive the emergency, urgent, or rehabilitative care, the more likely they are to return to duty, serving our communities and state. Our response in providing this support for officers injured by PTSD should be no different and has the very real potential to save lives.

The North Dakota Fraternal of Police urges a DO PASS vote on SB 2181.



Aaron Moss
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