



LARSON LAW FIRM, P.C.

(A Professional Corporation)

Licensed in North Dakota and Minnesota



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January 10, 2025

Re: Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee re: Senate Bill 2102

Chairwoman Larson and the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Please accept this written testimony in response to Senate Bill SB2102 which amends N.D.C.C. § 29-15-21 which required justification in any demand for a change of judge.

Please note that this office represents injured persons and has for over 45 years.

A Demand for Change of Judge is not taken lightly in our office, but it is done in order to make sure we provide the best representation we can to the client. Sometimes this includes a determination that the Judge initially assigned to the case may not be the right fit for any variety of reasons. Among the fit issues can include situations in which the firm has noted some tendencies from the Judge which we do not believe would support our client's interest. In addition, it is also possible that Judges have had prior dealings with members of our firm before going on the bench, or have had dealings while they are on the bench, which we feel suggests some bias by the judge towards members of our firm. When we experience those issues, we carefully and prudently make the demand for change of judge. It is not common in our practice to do so, but it is done with great care and a respect for the judge upon whom the demand is being made. It is also done to make sure that we represent our clients in the best fashion possible.

Requiring the public display of reasons for a request to change a judge could result in unfavorable outcomes. Depending on the reasons given in such a demand, there could be press coverage or social media discussions regarding the issues presented in a request. The reasons could also bias the judge towards the requester and create issues with subsequent appearances before the judge.

I urge a DO NOT PASS on this bill.

Sincerely,

LARSON LAW FIRM, P.C.

Mark V. Larson
Board Certified Civil Trial Specialist
By the National Board of Trial Advocacy

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