

January 21, 2024
Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 2128
Senator Diane Larson, Chair

For the record, I am Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson. I am appearing on behalf of the Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota. I am also the deputy director and attorney for the North Dakota League of Cities. The Chiefs of Police appear in support of SB 2128.

SB 2128 is a good step towards addressing concerns that are at the top of the minds of the Chiefs of Police. First, it ensures that the sentences of individuals sentenced to the custody of the North Dakota Department of Corrections are carried out in a transparent manner. It also ensures that most individuals who are convicted serve the majority of their sentences in prison.

Next, the bill adds additional penalty provisions for preventing arrest, assaulting a police officer, and fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer. Conduct constituting those charges has become quite prevalent and defendants convicted of those crimes often do not have any additional punishment for the listed offenses that are incredibly dangerous to law enforcement officers.

As this bill addresses many major concerns of law enforcement, the Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota respectfully requests a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2128.