



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2167

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
January 14, 2025

Dear Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of Senate Bill 2167 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

SB 2167 is a relatively straightforward bill that would ensure that the cost of digital forensic examinations be reimbursed and used to fund an internet crime investigation fund.

The first part of the bill would impose the fees to reimburse the investigation and prosecution of the crime in which the defendant is convicted. Reimbursement of investigation is a well-established principle that courts allow for investigation costs that are deemed "reasonable" and necessary to uncover relevant evidence in a case. Given that taxpayers would otherwise pay for these activities, reimbursement becomes a matter fairness as well as state fiscal responsibility.

The second component of SB 2167 is establishment of a fund to receive these fees and out of which they would fund resources that would facilitate the prevention of child sexual exploitation and internet crimes against children. Our organization is strongly in favor of additional funding for the prevention of child exploitation and trafficking. This session we are working with legislators to introduce multiple bills aimed at reducing human trafficking and exploitation through greater education, training, and minimum sentencing requirements for those found guilty of these crimes. Thus, SB 2167 fits ideally with the principles we defend and advance on behalf of our constituents across North Dakota.

For the aforementioned reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests that you render a "DO PASS" on SB 2167. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Mark Jorritsma
Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

1515 Burnt Boat Dr., Suite C-148, Bismarck, ND 58503
mark@Ndfamilyalliance.org
701-355-6425
www.ndfamilyalliance.org