

North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association

January 24, 2025

To: Judiciary Committee
Hon. Chairman Larson
Hon. Vice-Chair Paulson
Members of the Committee

RE: Senate Bill No. 2220

Chairman Larson, Vice-Chair Paulson, and Members of the Senate Judiciary:

The North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association (NDSAA) is submitting this letter as **NEUTRAL** to Senate Bill 2220 to bring up a few concerns with it as currently presented.

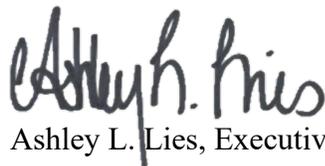
First, the Bill states it is related to training for law enforcement and state's attorneys addressing the crimes of human trafficking, prostitution, and the commercial exploitation of children. The actual Bill provides requirements for law enforcement training, but doesn't specify how or when state's attorneys are to be trained. Additionally, there is no fiscal note attached to the Bill, so we are concerned with how this training will be funded. Our Association operates on a very tight budget and it is likely financially impossible for us to bring in a trained speaker in all these areas.

Currently, there is no other North Dakota law that mandates specific training for state's attorneys. Our Association puts on two conferences each year where we bring in speakers on emerging trends and issues that affect our prosecution across the state. This has included trainings and speakers on trafficking and prostitution. To mandate it, however, would be difficult to implement. If it is a one-time training, how do we ensure new and old prosecutors are getting it? Unlike law enforcement, our new prosecutors do not attend a training class where this curriculum could easily be added and monitored. Their education is hands on in their job and through our bi-annual conferences.

Finally, as currently written, we believe the POST Board would be the ultimate decider in setting these training standards for us, which we oppose for obvious reasons as we would prefer our own Association have that oversight.

While we are grateful that the legislature joins us in recognizing the difficulties, and sadly increasing numbers, of these cases, we do not believe this Bill is the appropriate way to ensure this training is handled for state's attorneys.

On behalf of the North Dakota State's Attorneys:



Ashley L. Lies, Executive Director