

**Support SB 2326
North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee**

February 3, 2025

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Kristie Wolff, I am the Communications Coordinator for Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners (CDFNE).

I am providing testimony today in support of SB 2326.

CDFNE is a North Dakota based non-profit organization providing forensic medical services to children and adult survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, physical abuse and neglect in western North Dakota. Our organization serves 23 counties, with our headquarters in Bismarck. Our team of 23 Forensic Nurses work with a variety of partners to ensure that victims receive comprehensive, coordinated care while supporting the investigation and prosecution of crimes.

Every day, our staff witnesses the profound challenges survivors face as they work to reclaim safety and dignity after experiencing violence. These survivors often rely on legal protections, such as domestic violence and sexual assault protection orders, as critical tools for safeguarding their well-being.

A protective order serves as a legal barrier against ongoing threats, harassment, or violence. It is a crucial measure that can mean the difference between safety and further victimization. However, current loopholes regarding these orders can leave survivors vulnerable. When information about protection orders is made publicly accessible, it can inadvertently expose a survivor's identity or location, increasing the risk of harm.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) recognizes this danger and mandates that states, tribal jurisdictions, and territories protect survivors' privacy by prohibiting the public release of information that could reveal their identity or location.

SB 2326 is essential to closing these existing loopholes, ensuring compliance with federal law, and giving survivors greater confidence in the system designed to protect them. Therefore, today I am asking you to give a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2326.

Kristie Wolff

kristie.cdfne@midconetwork.com

701-751-4884