

**2019 HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**HB 1237**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

HB 1237  
1/15/2019  
30775

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe by Nicole Klamon
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**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to child sexual abuse education in schools

**Minutes:**

Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
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**Chairman Owens:** Opened the hearing on HB 1237

**Representative Shannon Roers Jones:** Introduction of HB 1237 and Proposed Amendment. **See attachment 1**

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** In the original bill, line 11 refers to a survey to be completed by superintendents of the various districts. How can you insure that this will be completed?

**Rep. Roers Jones:** This is a valid point. The task force did not discuss a penalty. However, if the committee feels if this is appropriate, we would be open to an amendment outlining that.

**Representative Pat Heinert:** Regarding the makeup of the "task force"; Did you consider having an instructor present the course material, to establish a class room prospective?

**Rep. Roers Jones:** I will let the people following me expand on that if such a person exists in DPI, Human Services or any of the other associated organizations.

**Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck:** First section, line 7 of the original bill; Is it purpose to instruct or make information available? purpose of amendment to inform or instruct? Task force concern brought forward. How did it come about?

**Rep. Roers Jones:** We were very careful about what kind of mandates we were going to put on the Dept. of Public Instruction (DPI). Being aware they have a significant instruction schedule as is. We are not opposed to implementing this type of structure, but I do not believe it was the task force's intent to create a mandate that DPI shall instruct. We wanted to make sure the information was available to students and parents.

**Vice Chairman Schreiber Beck:** Is there a concern, among the districts, regarding this or what has been brought forward that initiated the creation of the task force? Did someone say, "We have all these issues that Social Services is not addressing?"

**Rep. Roers Jones:** I do not believe this came to us from DPI. I believe the Task force was created out of the Senate bill created Senator David Clemmons. The goal is to provide information to those that maybe affected by child sexual abuse.

**Chairman Owens:** Further support?

**Anna Frissell;** Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Centers of ND: Provided testimony in support- **See attachment #2**

**Chairman Owens:** Questions?

**Representative Jeff Hoverson:** Has there been an increase of this problem in ND?

**Anna Frissell:** During the oil boom, the statistic spiked somewhat. We did see a slight increase last year, historically this is the case. More states are implementing a process to give children more access to reporting.

**Rep. Hoverson:** It states that DPI will develop surveys and may look to other states for examples. Does your organization have examples of these? I am interested in how graphic these may be. Is this survey something that the children would fill out or to the school? How is the information disseminated to schools and to children?

**Anna Frissell:** I believe the survey referenced was to find out from schools what they are doing with regard to education. But there are surveys done in the state, YRBS survey, that gathers information from children.

**Rep. Heinert:** My concern dwells in the classroom and the teachings of Pre-K – 12. Is there a plan, for those instructing, to insure they have a good background in how to recognize possible abuse?

**Anna Frissell:** I think this is a very good point. Whenever approaching an educational setting on sensitive issues, the instructor needs to be cognizant that the participants maybe touched by the information. I'm unable to tell you who will be doing the instructing at this time. This is a relevant point that when developing the curriculum, the implementation of process includes having instructors familiar with the information and how to identify or deal with instances where children or adults may come forward.

**Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck:** How are you funded?

**Anna Frissell:** We are 501-C3s and funded in a variety of ways. The Department of human services through an appropriation, private donations, foundational funding, fundraisers, Federally through Victim of Crime Act. We are members of the National Children's Alliance and receive monies. We also have a flexible and varied funding plan.

**Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck:** Do victims pay for services?

**Anna Frissell:** All the children that come to us are through referral, either law enforcement or social services. We provide a variety of services, most of which are free. If they are referred for medical exam or to see an abuse specialist, that is at their expense. We provide free Mental Health services with our psychologist. Other Advocacy Centers may have differing free services.

**Chairman Owens:** Further Support?

**Lacy Anderson:** Representing State Association of Nonpublic Schools: Provided Proposed Amendment, **See attachment 3**

**Chairman Owens:** Additional support?

**Linda Reinicke,** Consultant for Prevent Child Abuse ND (PCAND) and Task Force member: Provided Testimony in support, **See attachment 4 and 5**

**Chairman Owens:** Support? Seeing none. Opposition to HB 1237?

### **Opposition**

**Lisa Feldner,** Representing ND Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL): Provided testimony in opposition, **See attachment 6**

**Chairman Owens:** Questions? Seeing none. Is there any neutral testimony?

**Robin Lengen,** Assistant Director for Dept. of Public Instruction: Written testimony not provided.

I wanted to share that the Dept. of Public Instruction does not employ staff to write curriculum nor are we curriculum experts. Curriculum has always been determined at the local level to meet the needs of that district. So it is not an oversight that our department has.

**Chairman Owens:** Any Questions? Seeing none.

**Chairman Owens:** Closes the meeting



# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

HB 1237  
1/30/2019  
31753

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Committee Work

**Minutes:**

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**Chairman Owens:** Any discussion on HB 1237?

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** My understanding was that this bill was turned back into a task force to look at child sexual abuse.

**Chairman Owens:** We do have an amendment.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** My question is - would that task force require a fiscal note for some funding? I brought that before Rep. Roers Jones as well and she didn't have an answer at this time.

**Chairman Owens:** What we've learned already is that we have to move the amendment to find out if there is a fiscal note. We have another proposed amendment where it adds in non-public schools, superintendent of public instruction shall make the information available to non-public schools at no cost. That certainly sounds like money.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** That may have been prior to this amendment.

**Chairman Owens:** Discussion?

**Rep. LaurieBeth Hager:** I have an amendment that was proposed, the Christmas tree version. So if we would want to move on that?

**Chairman Owens:** We don't have a motion right now for an amendment. You can hand that out. I'm curious if it's the same amendment.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** For the committee, we have three bills that are related to sexual abuse of children. We have the task force - HB 1237, HB 1262 - which was amended to establish a school safety and crisis hotline program, and HB 1277 - which was

to provide a medically accurate and age appropriate sexual abuse education in schools in their health curriculum. I am in contact with Pam Sagness, Dept. of Human Services, Behavior Health Division, as to any comments she may have on any of these three bills as well. My concern with the task force is looking at what the Behavior Health Division is doing and their alignment under the thirteen categories. I wanted to make sure it is being covered.

**Chairman Owens:** Right now we have two amendments from someone signed on as a co-sponsor, but it is not the primary sponsor. I would like to talk to the primary sponsor. I'd also like to find out if that amendment causes a small fiscal note in order to run the task force. We will set these three bills aside.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** I spoke to Rep. Roers Jones and it is okay that HB 1277 goes away.

**Chairman Owens:** I believe there is something in the task force bill that it is included in there.

No further discussion and the hearing was closed.

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

HB 1237  
2/12/2019  
31753

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe
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## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to child sexual abuse education in schools

## **Minutes:**

Attachment 1
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Committee work:

**Chairman Owens:** The Christmas tree version includes Amendment .01004, and that's just to show us what it looks like. We have not amended this bill as of yet. Rep. Schneider, could you come up and answer a question?

**Rep. Mary Schneider:** I represent District 21, central Fargo.

**Chairman Owens:** Was it your intent to have .01001 adopted and then .01004? Or did you overwrite .01001, because it's not in the Christmas tree version.

**Rep. Schneider:** I believe that .01004 is the final amendment. In working with Lisa Feldner, who had issues with the representation of this committee and action that was proposed in the original bill, task force members Reps. Roers Jones, Clemens and the Legislative Council and Anna Frissell, chair of the task force worked with taking out the action step and put in the educational representation requested by Lisa Feldner. The amendment .01004 version you have accomplishes three things: 1) it protects and extends the sexual abuse task force which just started meeting in March 2018 and is responsible for the report to the Governor which included a recommendation. 2) it took out the action steps that we wanted to impose on schools and 3) increased the membership of the sexual abuse task force should you choose to extend it to include the direct educational representatives. This came from the senate bill and we thought there was educational representation and DPI was included in that original task force, but the folks who provide the direct educational representation didn't share that viewpoint. If this committee sees that to be appropriate, we are happy to incorporate them.

**Chairman Owens:** I just wanted to clear up the amendments. Those were the only two you brought.

**Rep. Schneider: (See Attachment 1).** I did ask the clerk to distribute testimony to the amendments from Anna Frissell and some of the information in there are compelling to the issue of extending the task force.

**Chairman Owens:** In the original bill I did have another amendment requesting to remove “in non-public schools” and in another part about the superintendent of public instruction shall make the information available to non-public schools. In other words, removing all non-public schools. Did your amendment take care of that?

**Rep. Schneider:** That amendment didn’t come from us, so I hope it accomplished what was needed to align with that amendment.

**Chairman Owens:** We’ll double check that. Are there any questions for Rep. Schneider? Amendment .01004 does overwrite .01001, so we won’t have to worry about that.

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** I move the Amendment .01004.

**Rep. Longmuir:** Seconded it.

**Chairman Owens:** Any discussion?

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** Rep. Schreiber-Beck, this is all part of the coordination of this matter?

**Rep. Schreiber-Beck:** There are a couple bills in the Senate that are in the commission on children. This can be passed and it might be incorporated into something different. I’m not sure how they are going to look at that because they want to be holistic when they are looking at all of the issues with children. This is very specific, but then whether or not they choose to let that from the senate side exists, we will see.

**Chairman Owens:** Any other questions?

**Rep. Andrew Marschall:** What does this task force actually do?

**Rep. Schneider:** The task force came out of legislation in 2017 but nobody was put in charge of calling it. It’s a broad-based task force that includes the people you see in your amendment. The bill in the Senate had them tasked with focusing on the issues with child sexual assault. They first met in March 2018, but the group that came together was very skilled and determined to make this task force a success and one of the outcomes required was the report to the governor and you should have a booklet in your file on this bill. We took national, regional and local testimony in hearings about the issues, the problems, the barriers, the breakdowns in addressing child sexual assault and gathered statistics on the prevalence of it and what needed to be done to eliminate or minimize child sexual assault. See page 2 of Anna Frissell’s testimony indicating that there are reporting issues, the data comes to different points, law enforcement issues that need to be addressed. The task force uncovered critical issues in addressing child sexual assault and because it is a multi-generational issue because it also causes mental health treatments, delinquency treatments and a variety of adverse problems that cost money to the state with distressed families and children. We felt that the task force should have more than the nine months to operate. One

of the recommendations in the report was to extend that for a five-year period and address some of the issues and adapt some recommendations that we received from other states.

**Chairman Owens:** Any questions from the committee?

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Rep. Schneider, when I look on pgs.8-9 of proposed administrative and/or legislative actions, are you in agreement with not having curriculum and because of what we have been told, that it's not the thing to do. We're told by the task force that some of this is not the way to go. I am confused.

**Rep. Schneider:** The task force unanimously came up with those recommendations. We found out that we hadn't sold those ideas to the proper people with what it takes to implement them. We stand behind those. Extending the task force through this bill without the substantive changes will give us an opportunity to incorporate the direct teaching and education staff and see what's been done elsewhere and also successful curriculum

**Chairman Owens:** Any further questions?

**Voice Vote** on amendment for HB 1237 passes.

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** I move a **Do Pass as Amended**.

**Rep. Ron Guggisberg:** **Seconded**.

**A Roll Call Vote was taken: Yes 14, No 0, Absent 0.** Rep. M. Johnson will carry HB 1237.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "to provide for a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative management and the governor.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND THE GOVERNOR.**

1. Beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending September 30, 2024, the task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children is established to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. The statewide approach must ensure appropriate policies, funding, staffing, resources, and programming are available. The task force shall build upon the efforts of the 2017-18 North Dakota task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
2. The task force consists of the following members:
  - a. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives, and one member of the minority party appointed by the minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;
  - b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee;
  - c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
  - d. A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
  - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;
  - g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;

- h. One superintendent from an urban school district and one from a rural school district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - i. One principal from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota council of educational leaders;
  - j. One classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by North Dakota united;
  - k. One school counselor from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota school counselors association; and
  - l. Any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate.
3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.
4. The task force shall focus on:
- a. Increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and nontribal children and adults;
  - b. Increasing interagency data collection, sharing, and collective analysis;
  - c. Supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including the sentencing, supervision, and treatment of sex offenders;
  - d. Increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and families; and
  - e. Implementing the remaining recommendations of the November 2018 final report of the North Dakota task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.
5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory changes, actions the task force deems necessary and appropriate to initiate awareness education of adults and children, and methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include:
- a. Developmentally appropriate resources for students in prekindergarten through grade twelve;
  - b. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;
  - c. Educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information;

Def 2/12/19  
3 of 3

- d. Available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse;
  - e. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be successful in school; and
  - f. Any other action deemed appropriate.
6. Before July first of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor. Before July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor."

Renumber accordingly



Date: 2-12-19  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1237

House Education Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19.0645.01004

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By R. M. Johnson Seconded By Rep. Longmuir

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman M. Owens			Rep. Guggisberg		
V. Chair. Schreiber-Beck			Rep. Hager		
Rep. Heinert					
Rep. Hoverson					
Rep. D. Johnson					
Rep. M. Johnson					
Rep. Johnston					
Rep. Longmuir					
Rep. Marschall					
Rep. Pyle					
Rep. Strinden					
Rep. Zubke					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment VOICE VOTE

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

MOTION CARRIED

Date: 2-12-19  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1237**

House Education Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19.0645.01004  
02000

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☒ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. M. Johnson Seconded By Rep. R. Guggisberg

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman M. Owens	✓		Rep. Guggisberg	✓	
V. Chair. Schreiber-Beck	✓		Rep. Hager	✓	
Rep. Heinert	✓				
Rep. Hoverson	✓				
Rep. D. Johnson	✓				
Rep. M. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Johnston	✓				
Rep. Longmuir	✓				
Rep. Marschall	✓				
Rep. Pyle	✓				
Rep. Strinden	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				
	-				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. M. Johnson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1237: Education Committee (Rep. Owens, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1237 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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2. The task force consists of the following members:
  - a. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives, and one member of the minority party appointed by the minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;
  - b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee;
  - c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
  - d. A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
  - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;
  - g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
  - h. One superintendent from an urban school district and one from a rural school district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - i. One principal from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public

- instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota council of educational leaders;
- j. One classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by North Dakota united;
  - k. One school counselor from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota school counselors association; and
  - l. Any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate.
3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.
  4. The task force shall focus on:
    - a. Increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and nontribal children and adults;
    - b. Increasing interagency data collection, sharing, and collective analysis;
    - c. Supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including the sentencing, supervision, and treatment of sex offenders;
    - d. Increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and families; and
    - e. Implementing the remaining recommendations of the November 2018 final report of the North Dakota task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.
  5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory changes, actions the task force deems necessary and appropriate to initiate awareness education of adults and children, and methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include:
    - a. Developmentally appropriate resources for students in prekindergarten through grade twelve;
    - b. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;
    - c. Educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information;
    - d. Available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse;
    - e. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be successful in school; and

- f. Any other action deemed appropriate.
- 6. Before July first of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor. Before July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor."

Renumber accordingly

**2019 SENATE JUDICIARY**

**HB 1237**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1237  
3/11/2019  
#33488 (59:11)

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Meghan Pegel
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL to provide for a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative management and the governor.

## Minutes:

4 Attachments
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**Chair Larson** opens the hearing on HB 1237.

**Shannon Roers Jones, District 46 Representative, testifies in favor (see attachment #1)**

**Representative Roers Jones:** This seeks to continue the work of the task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse which was created from a bill out of the last legislative session. This task force has been meeting through the interim. This bill originally included some recommendations for education to be disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in collaboration with some other entities. That portion was amended out in the House. In front of you is the makeup and the charge of the task force. The task force from the time it was created over the last interim has had some other educators added to it, so it will include a superintendent, a principal, a teacher and a school counselor. Those would be new members; the other members are currently existing. We would like to continue to have this task force working and collaborating to look at different education. During the last interim, we were looking at education that has been created and successful in other states to try and determine what things could be useful in North Dakota as far as educating children and parents on how to identify and prevent child sexual abuse. We'd like to continue this and come back during the next legislative session with recommendations for any statutory changes and with a report. You have a copy of the report we created that came from this last session's task force.

**Chair Larson:** What was amended out?

**Representative Roers Jones:** The original bill had recommendations for some education to be made available to teachers in schools and also having some listening sessions to gather information from different school districts.

**Chair Larson:** This commission was started last session then it was last session after the bill was initiated that that portion was amended out of that bill?

**Representative Roers Jones:** The task force was established from a bill that passed in the 2017 session, SB 2342. It set up the makeup of the task force which is largely recreated in the bill we have now. This task force met throughout 2018 and made up of members of the legislature, representatives from children's advocacy centers, law enforcement and human services. A number of different groups came together to have a multidisciplinary task force. During that task force, we studied models that were working in other states and tried to figure out the process we wanted to develop in North Dakota. Part of the process we were looking at was some listening sessions and trying to make available education for schools to use. We didn't want to mandate things, but we wanted to make things available so schools would have these resources that were age appropriate education if they wanted to use them. That portion of the bill was amended out in the House Education. What we have now is just efforts to continue the work of the task force so that we have additional opportunity to collaborate with educators and study the issues that we're trying to resolve.

**Senator Myrdal:** Is there a fiscal note? Who covers the expenses?

**Representative Roers Jones:** There's not a fiscal note. I'm not sure how the per diem was covered last time. We received travel expenses, not a per diem rate, but I'm not sure where that came from.

**Senator Myrdal:** I think it's an excellent idea to continue it; it's a prevailing issue. Is this something that needs to be visited every session?

**Representative Roers Jones:** I would say at least until we can establish the value and need for the task force. Right now we've asked for another 2 years. If we could make this an ongoing thing, the committee would be thrilled.

**Senator Myrdal:** I thought there was a bill apart from this that said we needed to address sex trafficking in schools. What was the reasoning for the education committee to take those listening sessions out of the bill?

**Representative Roers Jones:** I was not able to stay for the entirety of that testimony. I believe the concern from the committee was raised by DPI as far as who would be responsible for the implementation. There are some task members who were more actively engaged in the amendment process who can speak to the interactions that occurred while I was absent.

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** At the end it anticipates a 2024 ending date. The amendments envision that it wouldn't be an ongoing thing, but probably the next five years.

**Representative Roers Jones:** Correct. We did seek five years to continue to work on this. I believe the objective would be to prepare a report for the legislative session.



**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** This is the final report of the task force that was envisioned just the last until now?

**Representative Roers Jones:** Correct. The task force that was created in SB 2342 from 2017 was only set out to last until the next legislative session. That is the report we prepared at the end of our meeting time last fall. We'd like to continue that work and the reports to the legislature about what we're finding.

**(9:45) Anna Frissell, Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center in Fargo and Grand Forks, testifies in favor (see attachment #2)**

**(19:50) Senator Myrdal:** Has there ever been consideration for adding faith based organizations to this task force?

**Frissell:** We talked about a lot of organizations that we feel would have valuable input. However, it's always a challenge to keep the size of the task force something that's manageable. We recognize that there will be opportunities for specialized perspectives, and we would look to the task force to bring in those folks for the purpose of looking at policies and subcommittees. After the amendment, the school members were added, so the task force actually grew quite a bit. That was because DPI and school employees came forward with interest. That was an attempt to change the composition a little bit, but recognizing we're not just working on education issues.

**Senator Myrdal:** Faith based organizations see families on an in-depth level. Prevention is key, and we've seen an enormous increase in this behavior. Are we looking into the cause such as the makeup of the family?

**Frissell:** I have been working at the center for several years. We have seen an increase in the numbers of individuals who are reporting. I hope that's because we are becoming a society that allows people to report. I think there's a lot of victims that we don't know about. Whether or not these are new numbers or people that have not reported before, we're not sure. We see more complicated situations now. Crimes have gotten more technologically involved, and some offenders are more sophisticated. However, we are also more sophisticated and better to combat it. The task force will look at the investigative issues, treatment issues, education issues and the quilt of ND for how we're dealing with this.

**Senator Luick:** The task force has been in place for two years now. You can have all the meetings you want, and we can make as many laws as we want, but if there isn't anything physical done with those actions, it means nothing. What applications are happening at this state?

**Frissell:** The task force met for about 8 months. It wasn't until the end of March when we met because of appointments. It met end of March until November. It met monthly, so about 8 meetings. Several bills that are before the senate and house now for consideration came forward from task force members and those discussions. We were reluctant in that brief 8-month period with no funding to come to the legislature with a plan to move this ahead with a larger 5-year strategy.

**Senator Luick:** Moving forward is there a plan of action to try to maneuver some of these ideas?

**Frissell:** The report talks about some action steps that were recommended. One of them is public forums to get a sense of what's going on in our communities and bring that information together. Another is to take and vet those education programs that we have available; these are more immediate things that likely will happen. I would defer to this new task force to take that report, the action that's recommended and determine the long-term strategy. We are starting what's going to be a very long march; I doubt if I'll be there to see the end of it. I firmly believe if we use the resources that we can make a difference.

**Senator Luick:** I appreciate and wholeheartedly support this effort, but I want it moving quicker. We can write as many laws as we can provide reams of paper for, but if no one is pushing or enforcing the laws, it doesn't mean anything. In your case, you can have as many meetings as you can, but if your intentions aren't carried through, it doesn't mean anything anyway. I hope that this does pass, and this task force gets moving on this.

**Frissell:** I'll be quoting you on that many times in the years to come.

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** It looks like the compilation of this task force is heavily education and two folks from your profession. Should there be more? Please compare this compilation to the previous task force.

**Frissell:** The only folks we've added to this are the education people. You have a list of who was on the task force before. We've added just the education people, and that was part of the amendment process. I think they bring a valuable piece to it, but honestly I don't think the educators will want to spend a lot of time on the other issues. We all will be having to work hard to figure out a way to find the balance there.

**Senator Luick:** Just as Senator Myrdal, I too feel it is important to have a faith-based component. There isn't any involvement of that here. We're looking at a society where family morals are being scourged by the fact that family values and the religious portion of those families are dissipating and becoming obsolete. The problem lies within the family and the teachings within the family. If you were to focus more on incorporating something like that instead of more education people, you may have a better program.

**Frissell:** I think others have raised that as well with mental health, medical and other professions that have a lot of interaction with families and children. The original bill had a litany of members with over 20 agencies and individuals. They lowered it down now with adding a few education back in. They will have to rely heavily on outside committees to help make these things happen.

**(32:20) Tom Solberg, Deputy Director of the ND DOHS, Testifies in favor**

**Solberg:** You asked about a fiscal note. This is such an important piece of legislation that the DOHS will absorb it. Within our \$4 billion budget, we will find the money. Page one of this report states the objectives for the previous task force. I agree that if this bill is passed, we need to get it done. I don't know the exact number, but last year the Congress passed families

first which instead of taking care of the family after a child is out of the home in foster care or someplace else, it tries to upfront if a child is in need of assistance right away to try to get that family information and help right away. They're an example of trying to be proactive on these things, and maybe we can work into that regarding some of this information.

**Senator Myrdal:** There's a difference in law when it comes to the consequences for people who hurt themselves, such as smoking and drugs, and those that do damage to others. One is recovery and teaching to restore the family, and one is punishing the actor. If there's already sexual abuse in the family, doesn't that purely fall into the punishment part instead of the restoration part? How does the task force look at the two different approaches?

**Solberg:** One of the thing that's very important for this is the education for the children so they do understand what is good and bad. On our task force was the attorney general's office to talk about the punishment side of that. In the 8 months, we gathered a surface of the information. We try to be upfront to try and educate with the help of the schools to get this education to the kids for them to know if this is happening and who to tell if it does. If it goes down that road, that's when we go to the legal side. With the extended period of this task force, hopefully we can address a lot of those issues from a to z and get to not only the prevention and information but also on the other side too. Regarding the faith based organizations, page 2 line 16 of the bills says any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate.

**(38:25) Dave Clemens, District 16 Senator, testifies in favor**

**Senator Clemens:** I served last interim on the child sexual abuse task force, and I'm in strong support of this bill. As we went through the task force, we heard very tragic stories. This has no age limit. We heard testimony of a 3-month old child being sexually abused. The task force was to bring this to the forefront. As awareness is made more available, people in the legislature will begin to come forward with bills to initiate some more action on this. There is a bill that I introduced that addressed awareness; for example, a poster in schools that listed a hotline number for child sexual abuse. They can call in on this hotline number, and someone can reach out to them for some help. It's a situation where they don't want to or afraid to talk to their fellow friends or teachers. There was reluctance in committee about having this specifically as child sexual abuse, so the bill got amended in the committee to include different types of abuse. We also found out in the task force that child sexual abuse doesn't just happen, and there are so many other abuses that are contributing to this such as alcohol, drug or spousal abuse. All of these things enter into the family, and they start having effects that a lot of us don't even understand, and maybe we never will. Most of these things are happening by acquaintances, so until the family takes responsibility for their actions and children, we're not going to stop this. That's where the education part is coming in. Please give this a favorable recommendation.

**(42:30) Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director of Family Policy Alliance of ND, testifies in favor (see attachment #3)**

**Jorritsma:** There was some discussion about a faith based organization being a part of this task force, and I would be more than happy to put our name forward for consideration should that happen.

**(47:15) Rod Backman, State Association of Non-Public Schools (SANS), testifies in favor (see attachment #4)**

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** What is SB 2215?

**Backman:** That is a task force on K-12 education. She's making a point about where SANS has been involved and why, and I thought this was similar.

**(49:05) Lisa Feldner, ND Council of Educational Leaders, testifies in favor**

**Feldner:** We are in support of this as amended.

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** Would you support the amendment proposed to have a non-public school on the task force?

**Feldner:** Yes. On page 2 line 5 letter h, it has a superintendent from an urban school district and one from a rural school district. I don't know if we need two superintendents necessarily, so you could change that line.

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** The idea is you would have a city, rural and can add a private school now. They could appoint someone from their school I'm assuming.

**Feldner:** When we met about amending this bill, we were trying to get a geographical representation as well as a school. If you didn't want two superintendents and you changed it so that one was urban and one was rural, that might work too. I'm trying to be sensitive so that the task force isn't so big that it's unwieldy.

**Senator Luick:** We have to step back and look at what we're trying to accomplish. Do we think that the education system will fix this problem? We are adding in one superintendent from urban and one from rural, several principals, classroom teachers and counselors from the schools. Is that what's going to fix this problem, or will it be more on faith based, family participation in how this is being handled?

**Chair Larson:** along with people like Mrs. Frissel who work regularly with the victims and understand that whole dynamic as well.

**Senator Luick:** It looks like we're involving the education system entirely, but is that what's going to fix the problem?

**Feldner:** If you look at the task force, there were no educators represented. When the bill was originally drafted, it mandated that it be presented at each grade level. Our school based people didn't feel comfortable presenting on a topic that they didn't have training for. We got together to create what we have here. It isn't three principals, it's one because it says "or". We're certainly flexible, but we need to have some representation. If you look in the task force report, it says that the recommendations were materials being disseminated at the schools with the approval of the local school board, and that was not in the original bill. We're

coming together to try to make this better, and we're open to further changes. It's a very serious topic.

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** It sounds like the House did a good job as they essentially hog housed the bill but continued the task force instead of mandating educational things. All we have to do is figure out who's on this task force.

**Feldner:** Correct.

**Senator Bakke:** I was a special education teacher for 35 years and a foster parent. My thoughts are as a classroom teacher, more and more things are put on their plate, and if you do have a program such as this, usually it would be presented by the counselor or the social worker in the building rather than the classroom teacher. I think more from social services, foster care and child protection would balance it.

**Feldner:** Yes, I would agree. I think our organizations would be amenable to that.

**Senator Bakke:** When I get foster children in my home, my first point of contact is usually a social worker or police officer who brings them to my home. They see more of the abuse and more aware of what's going on in those situations. Even though teachers might be the ones to report it, they usually don't get a lot of information after that. I'd like to play with who's on this task force.

**Senator Myrdal:** From an education point of view, if we were to remove any school officials that are currently listed, which one would be most acceptable? Superintendents are important, but they're more of a business manager more than they are with the kids.

**Feldner:** In terms of who has the most contact with students, certainly it is counselors. Classroom teachers and principals are one on one with students daily, ones who have to deal with these things upfront. Those three are very important.

**Chair Larson closes the hearing on HB 1237.**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1237  
3/27/2019  
#34269 (10:52)

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Meghan Pegel
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL to provide for a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative management and the governor.

## Minutes:

2 Attachments
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**Chair Larson** begins discussion on HB 1237.

**(see attachments #1-2)**

**Senator Bakke:** Senator Myrdal and I made separate proposed amendments. The differences are: she put two representatives of a child advocacy center; she put social workers but in a different place- she eliminated the superintendent, which I had done as well, and put social workers there. I had eliminated the classroom teacher because oftentimes, you don't need a classroom teacher as a part of this discussion. I think it's more important to have that social worker and the counselor. Instead of a teacher, we had two school counselors. She had put two counselors, which I agree with.

**Senator Myrdal:** Why would the member of a faith-based community be appointed by the Department of Human Services?

**Senator Bakke:** I wasn't sure who would be the person to come up with that individual. Human services usually deals with sexual abuse issues, and I thought they might have a suggestion.

**Senator Myrdal:** That's my only concern. As I read the bill, it doesn't say who's supposed to appoint these people.

**Senator Bakke:** Some of them they did and some they didn't. I found that concerning. I had also gone with two principals, one from the rural area and one from an urban area. I think you're dealing with different types of issues in those two settings. Representation from both

of those areas would be helpful. I can take this up to Council and have them meld this into one amendment.

**Senator Myrdal:** I oppose appointed by the department of human services as far as faith-based. Perhaps you can ask legislative council.

**Chair Larson:** Some of this may be in statute. If you look at line 10-11 it says, "the task force shall build upon the efforts of the 2017-18 North Dakota task force". This is something that is already established so they may already have something set up.

**Senator Myrdal:** I would take it off because several of them aren't appointed by anybody.

**Senator Bakke:** To recap: 2 representatives of a child advocacy, take superintendents out, 2 principals, one rural and one urban, 1 or 2 social workers?

**Senator Myrdal:** 1

**Senator Bakke:** Okay. Then we had 2 school counselors and a member from faith-based. I will take that up to legislative council to combine that

**Chair Larson:** Could you clarify who is inviting people to be on this task force at this time?

**Senator Bakke:** They have appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and the House and majority leader. One says the department of human services. Another one says the executive director of Indian Affairs or designee; law enforcement appointed by the attorney general; superintendent or superintendent designee. The only one we don't have an indication for is for faith-based.

**Senator Myrdal:** because they're independent.

**Senator Bakke:** Do you have thoughts on who you think might be the person to do that?

**Senator Myrdal:** I would discuss it with legislative council.

**Chair Larson:** It's a difficult thing to define. Mark Jorritsma with Family Policy Alliance also offered to do that.

## **(8) Christopher Dodson, ND Catholic Conference**

**Dodson:** The way I've seen it in other legislation is not to name an organization. For example, it used to be named "the Conference of Churches", and now the Conference of Churches doesn't exist anymore, so that makes it difficult when you put something into statute. The attorney general appoints somebody from a faith-based organization in the human trafficking commission. You have a person that is responsible for being in that criteria. The best legislative language is usually "faith-based or community organization". That's how I have seen it. We've done it a few times through my 20 years, and that's probably the best way to

do it, but you have to have somebody making that decision choosing from the community. That person will decide and have that discretion.

**Chair Larson:** Perhaps the attorney general would be the one to appoint that person to be consistent with the others? They should hopefully be able to find out who might have some background in that.

**Dodson:** The type of examples I think of are ones where there's usually one person in charge that makes those decisions.

**Chair Larson:** Senator Bakke, you can get some suggestions from legislative council.

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** If you recall, Rod Backman's request was that it be from a faith-based school of which there are several.

**Senator Bakke:** You would prefer it to read one member from a faith-based school?

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** I'm not saying that's what we should do, I'm just saying that was brought up. I'm wondering if you talked about it.

**Senator Bakke:** I'll talk to council.

**Chair Larson** ends discussion on HB 1237.



# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1237  
4/1/2019  
#34386 (07:11)

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Meghan Pegel
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL to provide for a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative management and the governor.

## Minutes:

1 Attachment
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**Chair Larson** begins discussion on HB 1237.

**(see attachment #1)**

**Senator Bakke:** I have the amendments that we had requested and finalized as a group. We took out superintendent because we felt they are more of a numbers person. Instead we put in a school social worker. We replaced urban with public school district. We're asking that there be one from both an urban and a rural area. Instead of one principal, we went to two-one from rural and one from urban. It's more important to have two types of communities rather than different levels. We've removed classroom teachers because oftentimes when there's suspicion of child abuse, it's referred to the school counselor or social worker, paperwork is filed, and the classroom teacher is no longer involved at that point. With faith-based, it will read, "one member from a faith-based community appointed by the attorney general". That is what was recommended to me by legislative counsel. We're going with two school counselors instead of just one; again from a rural and urban area. The other thing is if we've missed someone who should be in there, "I" says, "any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate", so we've left that open for them if we've missed someone.

**Senator Myrdal:** Can we go back to page 1, line 23?

**Senator Bakke:** It will read, "a representative of a domestic violence rape crisis center involved in the prevention of child abuse appointed by the executive director of the department of human services, or the treatment of child abuse victims, or both". That was recommended to me because they're the people that are usually the most involved in those types of activities.

**Senator Myrdal: Motions to adopt amendment 19.0645.02003.**  
**Senator Bakke: Seconds.**

**A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent. Amendment is adopted.**

**Senator Bakke: Motions for a Do Pass as Amended.**  
**Senator Myrdal: Seconds.**

**A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent. Motion carries.**

**Senator Myrdal will carry the bill.**

March 28, 2019

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Page 1, line 23, replace "an organization" with "a domestic violence rape crisis center"

Page 1, line 23, after "abuse" insert "or the treatment of child abuse victims, or both"

Page 2, line 5, replace "superintendent" with "school social worker"

Page 2, line 5, replace "an urban" with "a public"

Page 2, line 5, remove "and one from a rural school"

Page 2, line 6, remove "district"

Page 2, line 7, replace "One principal" with "Two school principals, one"

Page 2, line 7, replace "a high school, middle school, or elementary" with "an urban school district and one from a rural"

Page 2, line 7, after the third "school" insert "district"

Page 2, line 10, remove "classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school"

Page 2, line 11, replace "in the state" with "member from the faith-based community"

Page 2, line 11, remove "superintendent of public instruction from a list"

Page 2, line 12, replace "provided by North Dakota united" with "attorney general"

Page 2, line 13, replace "One" with "Two"

Page 2, line 13, replace "counselor" with "counselors, one"

Page 2, line 13, replace "a high school, middle school, or elementary" with "an urban school district and one from a rural"

Page 2, line 13, after the fourth "school" insert "district"

Renumber accordingly

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1237**

Senate Judiciary Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19.0645.02003

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass    ☐ Do Not Pass    ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended    ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider    ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Senator Myrdal Seconded By Senator Bakke

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chair Larson	X		Senator Bakke	X	
Vice Chair Dwyer	X				
Senator Luick	X				
Senator Myrdal	X				
Senator Lemm	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1237**

Senate Judiciary Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☒ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Senator Bakke Seconded By Senator Myrdal

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chair Larson	X		Senator Bakke	X	
Vice Chair Dwyer	X				
Senator Luick	X				
Senator Myrdal	X				
Senator Lemm	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Myrdal

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1237, as engrossed: Judiciary Committee (Sen. D. Larson, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1237 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 23, replace "an organization" with "a domestic violence rape crisis center"

Page 1, line 23, after "abuse" insert "or the treatment of child abuse victims, or both"

Page 2, line 5, replace "superintendent" with "school social worker"

Page 2, line 5, replace "an urban" with "a public"

Page 2, line 5, remove "and one from a rural school"

Page 2, line 6, remove "district"

Page 2, line 7, replace "One principal" with "Two school principals, one"

Page 2, line 7, replace "a high school, middle school, or elementary" with "an urban school district and one from a rural"

Page 2, line 7, after the third "school" insert "district"

Page 2, line 10, remove "classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school"

Page 2, line 11, replace "in the state" with "member from the faith-based community"

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Page 2, line 12, replace "provided by North Dakota united" with "attorney general"

Page 2, line 13, replace "One" with "Two"

Page 2, line 13, replace "counselor" with "counselors, one"

Page 2, line 13, replace "a high school, middle school, or elementary" with "an urban school district and one from a rural"

Page 2, line 13, after the fourth "school" insert "district"

Renumber accordingly

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1237**

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Page 1, line 2, after "schools" insert "; to provide for a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative management and the governor"

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

**"SECTION 2. TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF  
CHILDREN - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND THE  
GOVERNOR.**

1. Beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending September 30, 2024, the task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children is established to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. The statewide approach must ensure appropriate policies, funding, staffing, resources, and programming are available. The task force shall build upon the efforts of the 2017-18 North Dakota task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
2. The task force consists of the following members:
  - a. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives, and one member of the minority party appointed by the minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;
  - b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee;
  - c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
  - d. A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
  - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general; and
  - g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee.
3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.



4. The task force shall focus on:
  - a. Increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and nontribal children and adults;
  - b. Increasing interagency data collection, sharing, and collective analysis;
  - c. Supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including the sentencing, supervision, and treatment of sex offenders;
  - d. Increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and families; and
  - e. Implementing the remaining recommendations of the November 2018 final report of the North Dakota task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.
5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include;
  - a. Age appropriate curriculum for students in prekindergarten through grade twelve;
  - b. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;
  - c. Educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information;
  - d. Available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse; and
  - e. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be successful in school.
6. Before July first of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor. Before July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor."

Renumber accordingly

Members of the Committee

My name is Anna Frissell. I am the Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota. I am here today to ask for your support for House Bill 1237.

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota are committed to improving the response to and prevention of child abuse. Each of the Children's Advocacy Centers across the state works with team members from social services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and the medical and mental health communities to provide evidence based services to help the child and family heal and to increase successful prosecutions. We also work with schools, the faith communities, organizations, clubs and communities in the prevention of child abuse. In the last 5 years ND Children's Advocacy Centers provided prevention services to over 10,000 individuals. The Children's Advocacy Center model is seen as the gold standard response to child abuse across the country at over 850 Children's Advocacy Centers, in all 50 states. Including three Children's Advocacy Centers in North Dakota covering five regionally placed sites; one in Bismarck, Dickinson, Minot, Fargo and Grand Forks.

Child sexual abuse touches so many children. It is estimated there are 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the US and research tells us that 60% of victims never tell.<sup>1, 2</sup> Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children aged 17 and under.<sup>3, 4</sup>

Child abuse also happens in North Dakota. Every year our Centers see hundreds of children that are sexually abused, raped and threatened. They have experienced violence and at times been exploited through pornography and trafficking.

There is plenty of data that tells us how imperative stopping child sexual abuse actually is...the remarkable toll it takes on children and adults! Children who are sexually abused are at significantly greater risk for a wide variety of mental health and health problems including PTSD, anxiety, depression and suicide<sup>6</sup>. They're more likely to have substance abuse issues<sup>5</sup>, delinquency<sup>6</sup>, and academic difficulties<sup>9</sup>. They are at increased risk for teen pregnancy <sup>7</sup>, other sexual behavior problems<sup>8</sup> and eating disorders<sup>10</sup>. Not only does child sexual abuse affect children, often adults who were abused as children carry this pain with them for a lifetime. Adults with a history of child sexual abuse are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, stroke or hypertension.<sup>11</sup> The CDC has recently estimated the lifetime cost of child abuse to be approximately \$210,012 per victim <sup>12</sup>.

Last session the legislature passed Senate Bill 2342 which created the North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. The Task Force has been meeting throughout 2018. During the process of gathering information we found that many organizations in North Dakota have adopted and incorporated primary or tertiary prevention efforts into their work.

The three levels of prevention are distinctively different. Primary prevention is preventing damage from occurring in the first place, secondary is intended to identify and intervene in situations of high risk and tertiary prevention seeks to lessen the damage that has already been done. Most programs across the state focus on secondary and tertiary prevention and the Task Force hoped to lay a foundation to expand efforts of primary prevention programming.

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#2  
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A copy of the Task Force's final report, North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, has been distributed to this Committee. If you look at page 7 of the report you will see the Task Force recommended that a five (5) year Standing Committee be created to further the work. The Task Force looked at strategic statewide plans for designing and implementing initiatives from Vermont and West Virginia, and received information from Dr. Janet Rosenzweig of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. We also heard from numerous in-state experts. The State initiatives that we looked at all had multiple year commitments to developing a strategy that would work for them. There was no cookie cutter approach. As you can see, on page 7 at the top, the Task Force asks that North Dakota embark on this same multiple year journey of discovering what we have and what we want in our state to combat this tragedy!

Although, there were differences as to the implementation of education and awareness curriculums and strategies, there were common themes.

One of the themes that the Task Force heard over and over again is how important it is to educate both adults and children. Our North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force recognizes that the safety of children is ultimately the responsibility of adults. Adults need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. In order to fulfill this duty of protection, adults need to be given the information they need to act. The more information adults hold about the prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse, the more empowered people will act when confronted by child sexual abuse warning signs. But the Task Force also acknowledged that evidence-based, developmentally appropriate education is highly beneficial for children as it empowers them to discuss feelings of discomfort and/or betrayal and assists them in identifying helpers that can interrupt and end the abuse.

Child sexual abuse is a serious problem; it is everyone's problem; and something needs to be done about it. The good news is that there are ways to prevent child sexual abuse! We need to start talking about how we as adults can lessen the risk to the kids around us every day and we need to be proactive. We also need to educate children so that they recognize healthy relationships, are empowered to say "no" and to have open communication with trusted adults. Research shows that children who have had body safety education are more likely to tell and we need to provide this education.

Children's Advocacy Centers play a critical role in ensuring the safety of abused children in our state. An integral part of this is preventing child abuse before it happens. We support an amendment to this bill to create a 5 year Standing Committee to prevent child sexual abuse in the State of North Dakota. We also support HB 1237 and the education it will provide to the innocent children of our state.

Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today.

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Lacy Anderson

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1237**

Page 1, line 9: remove "and nonpublic school"

Page 1, line 10: after the period insert "The superintendent of public instruction shall make the information available to nonpublic schools at no cost."



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House Education Committee

House Bill 1237 Testimony - January 15, 2019

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

I am Linda Reinicke, Program Consultant for Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota (PCAND), a non-profit dedicated to promoting services and resources that prevent all types of child abuse and neglect. PCAND receives partial funding from the ND Department of Human Services.

I am here to voice support of House Bill 1237 that relates to some of the recommendations reported by the 2017- 2018 Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, a task force created by the 2017 Legislative Assembly to develop child sexual abuse reduction recommendations. As a member of the Task Force, PCAND supports the recommendations put forth by the Task Force. **Specifically, HB 1237 relates to the following Task Force recommendations** that, in the interest of time, I will paraphrase:

- North Dakota Public Schools, with the approval of the local school board, will deliver prevention education to students and to parents or caregivers of students
- Curriculum resources will be compiled and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction. The curriculum may include instruction on topics such as promoting healthy and respectful relationships, developing and maintaining effective communication with trusted adults, recognizing sexually offending behaviors and gaining awareness of available school and community resources. The methods of delivering the education may include delivering the information in a publication such



as a school handbook that is distributed to every student annually, in-person, e-learning or other mechanisms determined by the Department to be appropriate

- A school survey will be developed and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction and superintendent shall facilitate an annual meeting to analyze the survey data and update the child sexual abuse prevention information, resources, and intervention practices

**HB 1237 contains strong elements that will effectively reduce child sexual abuse.**

HB 1237 targets students and parents or caregivers of children as an audience.

Many child sexual abuse prevention resources focus solely on teaching children about sex abuse--hardly a sufficient reach. By including parents and caregivers in the target audience, HB 1237 strengthens the entire family's understanding of sex abuse prevention. Prevention education builds the parents' skills as protectors of their children (parents will understand that the only safe place for a child is with a safe adult) and encourages parents to promote their children's confidence and well-being. Research shows that confident children become less likely targets for abuse and, if approached, respond more appropriately.

HB 1237 reaches children throughout the state. By working through school districts and nonpublic schools, HB 1237 will reach all children, an important approach because child sexual abuse occurs in all populations. It happens to children in all socioeconomic and educational levels, across all racial and cultural groups, and in rural, suburban, and urban areas.

In 2017, North Dakota reported 587 cases of children sexually abused with many more cases unreported. Significantly, 31% of those abused were under the age of 18 translating into a lifetime of pain and expense.

HB 1237 prioritizes prevention of child sexual abuse. With minimal investment, HB 1237 helps save 1) a lifetime of trauma-related fall-out (mental illness, addictions, etc.) for victims and their families and 2) a lifetime of expenses dealing with the fall-out for victims, families and society. Data, found in the Task Force's report, estimates a lifetime cost of child sexual abuse for a female = \$282,734 and a male = \$71,691.70. The estimated long-term expense of all the sexually abused children who received services in 2017 at a North Dakota Children's Advocacy Center totals \$154,813,120. Prevention protects our children and saves money.

Again, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, supports HB 1237 and, should HB 1237 become law and should the Departments of Public Instruction and Human Services require assistance in implementation, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota stands ready to help.

Respectfully submitted by

Linda Reinicke, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota

[lindar@pcand.org](mailto:lindar@pcand.org)

701-226-2510 (cell)

# North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse



Final Report  
November 2018



## Taskforce Overview

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### Introduction

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a problem with short and long term effects for those who are victimized. One in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse. The National Center for Victims of Crime<sup>1</sup> showed that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported 56,382 cases of child sexual abuse to state child and family service agencies. In 2016, the North Dakota Department of Human Services responded to over 14,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office (2017) reported 587 child sexual abuse victims. In 2017, in the course of a social service or law enforcement investigation, 774 children were referred to North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers for sexual abuse allegations. With significant cost to families and communities, including primary and rehabilitative health care costs, education and welfare assistance, child protection and justice system costs, the consequences of CSA are far reaching.

### SB 2342 Objectives

- a. Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state
- b. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations
- c. Create goals for state policy that would prevent child sexual abuse
- d. Submit a final report with its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Management

### Taskforce Development

In January 2017, the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota passed SB 2342 which stated that "During the 2017-18 interim, a Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children shall gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state and develop recommendations to reduce child sexual abuse." The North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse began meeting in March 2018 with the overall goal of delivering a report to the Governor's Office and the Legislature Management in the fall of 2018.

### Taskforce Members

- Senator David Clemens, North Dakota Senate
- Valerie Fischer, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
- Anna Frissell, Red River Children's Advocacy Center (Chair)
- Lonnie Grabowska, Bureau of Criminal Investigation / North Dakota Office of the Attorney General
- Dr. Christopher Johnson, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead
- Representative Shannon Roers Jones, North Dakota House of Representatives
- Representative Mary Schneider, North Dakota House of Representatives
- Tom Solberg, North Dakota Department of Human Services
- Sandy Tibke, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
- Erica Thunder, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

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<sup>1</sup> National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). *Child Sexual Abuse Statistics*. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse-sstatistics>.

## CSA Definitions

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### *CSA Taskforce*

Child sexual abuse includes a wide range of sexual behaviors and activities that take place between a child and another person seeking sexual gratification or exploitation of the child that causes harm to a victim or victim's family.

### *Administrative*

Sexually abused child means an individual under the age of 18 years who is subjected to abuse by a person responsible for the child's welfare, or by any individual who acts in violation of sections 12.1-20-01 through 12.1-20-07, sections 12.1-20-11 through 12.1-20-12.2, or chapter 12.1-27.2. While the administrative system (Child Protection Services) uses the same definitions that are used in the criminal code, the standard of evidence or "level of proof" required in order to support a decision that services are required for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child is a simple preponderance of evidence (more than 50%) versus proof "beyond a reasonable doubt" required by the criminal court (NDCC Chapter 50-25.1-02).

### *Legal*

The State of North Dakota has multiple applicable criminal laws contained in the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC). The most commonly used criminal laws applied to child sexual abuse are located in NDCC, Chapter 12.1-20. Commonly applied laws are gross sexual imposition, continuous sexual abuse of a child, sexual assault, corruption or solicitation of minors, luring minors by computer, incest, indecent exposure, promoting obscenity to minors, minor performing in obscene performance and human trafficking.

### *Tribal*

Confusion regarding jurisdiction in Indian Country remains a problem. Jurisdiction continues to be a patchwork of tribal, state and federal jurisdiction that varies depending on the crime, identity of the perpetrator, identity of the victim and the location of the offense. Congress has passed a web of laws that assert federal jurisdiction over crimes that occur on Indian reservations, including child sexual abuse. State jurisdiction exists when two non-Indians commit crimes against one another within the boundaries of Indian Country. Every tribe has a unique tribal code that may include further laws defining child sexual abuse. Tribes also have several law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction that may be involved in the investigation of a child sexual abuse case. The agencies include tribal law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



## Current Impact

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### *Scope of the Problem: Nationally*

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a problem with both short and long term effects for those who are victimized. It is reported that one in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse<sup>2</sup>. Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident<sup>3</sup>. Reported across all socioeconomic and ethnic groups, both male and female, CSA is a problem of great magnitude<sup>4</sup>. With significant cost to families and communities, including primary and rehabilitative health care costs, education and welfare assistance, child protection and justice system costs, the consequences of CSA are far-reaching<sup>5</sup>.

Proving to be a problem of considerable proportion, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that 56,382 cases of child sexual abuse had been reported to state child and family service agencies in 2016. Due to the nature of CSA, it is likely that incidences are underreported due to children being afraid of the repercussions they may face from their abuser, feeling ashamed, embarrassed or blaming themselves for the abuse. Further, some children may not report being a victim of sexual abuse due to their lack of understanding of child sexual abuse.

Violent victimization of Indians and Alaska natives is 2.5 times greater than that of other ethnic and racial subgroups within the United States<sup>6</sup>. Shocking homicide rates, skyrocketing levels of juvenile justice issues, child abuse (including child sexual abuse), an exhausted child welfare system, staggering numbers of tribal youth in out-of-home placements, high levels of turnover and lack of resources for law enforcement and substance abuse plague the over 1.4 million people who populate tribal land.

### *Scope of the Problem: North Dakota*

North Dakota is not exempt from what is seen on the national level. In 2018, the ND Department of Human Services responded to 1307 reports of suspected child sexual abuse. In 2017, the North Dakota Attorney General's Office reported 587 child sexual abuse victims, North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed 826 children who presented primarily for sexual abuse, and North Dakota crisis centers provided services to 364 child sexual abuse victims. Confusion regarding criminal jurisdiction and lack of resources contribute to an increased crime rate in Indian Country. These and other contributing factors have an undeniable impact on North Dakota tribal youth who are victim to falling through gaps in services, lack of services or geographic barriers to services.

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). Child Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>.

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). Child Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>.

<sup>4</sup> Walsh, K.Z., Woolfenden, S., & Shlonsky, A. (2015). School-based education programs for the prevention of child sexual abuse (Review). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 4(CD004380), 1-121.

<sup>5</sup> Fang, X., Brown, D.S., Florence, C.S., & Mercy, J.A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. Child Abuse & Neglect, 36(2), 156-65.

<sup>6</sup> United States U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Public Law 280 and Law Enforcement in Indian Country: Research Priorities (Washington, DC, 2005). <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/209839.pdf> (accessed October 16, 2018).

## Cost of CSA

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The estimated cost can be determined by using North Dakota Children's Advocacy Numbers. However, there are two important limitations to this method: (1) these numbers represent only the allegations of children who can actually make their way to a Children's Advocacy Center, and (2) the majority of child sexual abuse victims do not disclose the abuse. In 2017, the North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers reported 826 children and youth (540 female and 286 male) who were provided a forensic interview. It is estimated that the lifetime cost of child sexual abuse for a female = \$282,734 and a male = \$71,691<sup>7</sup>. For those children who were sexually abused, reported their abuse and received services at a North Dakota Children's Advocacy Center in 2017, the estimated lifetime expense is \$154,813,120.

## Current Response

### Systems of Care

There are a multitude of agencies that make up a comprehensive system of care. The criminal justice system, juvenile justice, judicial system at large, law enforcement, child welfare, human service centers, healthcare providers, Indian health systems, education institutions, youth-serving organizations, childcare providers, faith communities, non-profit organizations and informal networks of family and friends create a safety net for those at-risk or impacted by child sexual abuse. By providing education to all and strengthening the formal response system, North Dakota can join other states that have drastically decreased instances of child sexual abuse by providing in-school education, adult education, advocacy, and behavioral health services and increasing primary prevention efforts.

### Prevention

Many organizations have adopted and incorporated primary, secondary or tertiary prevention efforts into their work. Though these efforts look similar across industries, the three levels of prevention are distinctively different. Primary prevention is preventing damage from occurring in the first place, secondary is intended to identify and intervene in situations of high risk and tertiary prevention seeks to lessen the damage that has already been done. Most programs across the state have focused on secondary and tertiary with the intent to incorporate more primary prevention programming.

### In-school Education

The task force acknowledges that evidence-based, age-appropriate education is a benefit for children as it empowers them to discuss feelings of discomfort and / or betrayal and assists them in identifying helpers that can interrupt and end the abuse. In addition, teachers and parents should receive complementary education and / or status notification that enables everyone to speak common language and monitor the health and safety of children.

<sup>7</sup> Letourneau, E. J., Brown, D. S., Fang, X., Hassan, A., & Mercy, J. A. (2018). The economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 79, 413-422.



### *Adult Education*

The task force recognizes that the safety of children is ultimately the responsibility of adults. Adults need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. In order to fulfill this duty of protection, adults need to be given the information they need to act. The more information adults hold about the prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse, the more empowered people will act when confronted by child sexual abuse warning signs.

### *Advocacy*

Advocacy for children varies but is commonly provided by interdependent organizations that deliver services to victims and their families or may offer policy and statewide efforts on their behalf. Advocates are employed throughout the state, most commonly in the non-profit sector. The primary role of advocates is to get resources together that will ultimately protect the child and family from future harm, assist in coordinating the criminal justice process and refer to others that can assist the child and family in addressing trauma.

### *Therapy*

Providing therapy to child sexual abuse victims and their families requires a variety of evidence-based approaches that have demonstrated effectiveness at reducing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in children. Some examples of evidence-based treatments for PTSD in children are trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT); child and family traumatic stress intervention (CFTSI); alternatives for families, a cognitive behavioral therapy (AF-CBT); and problem sexual behaviors cognitive behavior therapy (PSB-CBT). Mental health services have the primary objective of assisting the child and their family in processing trauma and developing skills to reduce the long-term impact of trauma and help the child and family move forward in life.





## Information Presented

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### *ND Reported Cases*

- North Dakota and National Statistics / National initiatives / North Dakota Children's Alliance, North Dakota Department of Human Services Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Efforts (Marlys Baker, North Dakota Department of Human Services)
- Child Sexual Abuse Statistics (Lonnie Grabowska, Bureau of Criminal Investigation)

### *Population Specific*

- Tribal Child Welfare, Native American Cultural Awareness Training and Culturally Appropriate Responses for Native American Victims of Sexual Assault (Erica Thunder, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission)
- North Dakota MIECHV Program (Sandy Tibke, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota)
- Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts (Emily Schwartz, North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force)
- The State of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention in Indian Country (Sandra Bercier, First Nations Women's Alliance)

### *Law Enforcement / Legal / Legislative*

- Law Enforcement Role in CSA Investigations (Scott Betz, Bismarck Police Department)
- Introduction to Senate Bill 2342, Creating the Task Force (Rep. Bernie Satrom)
- Legal Perspective, Criminal Law and Prosecution (Britta Demello-Rice, North Dakota Attorney General's Office)
- Risk Assessment for Community Notification (Jonathan Byers, North Dakota Attorney General's Office)

### *Education and Programming*

- Red Flag Green Flag® (Melanie Fierstine and Dr. Christopher Johnson, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead)
- Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota Statistics and Prevention Education (Paula Condol, North Dakota Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers)
- North Dakota Children's Caucus (Tara Mulhauser, North Dakota Children's Caucus)
- Prevention Overview and Discussion, Handle with Care (Sandy Tibke and Jennifer Boub, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota)
- North Dakota Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Centers' response to Child Sexual Abuse (Janelle Moos, CAWS North Dakota)

### *Prevention*

- Health Prevention Education in ND Schools (Valerie Fischer, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction)
- Vermont Prevent Child Abuse Initiative (Linda Johnson, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont)
- West Virginia Prevention Initiative (Jim McKay, Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia)
- Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (Dr. Janet Rosenzweig, The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children)
- Pledge to Protect Campaign and Community Prevention Education (Anna Frissell, Red River Children's Advocacy Center)

## Recommendations

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### *Proposed Legislation*

The task force recommends legislative action to establish a standing Committee which shall serve for no less than five years and build on the work of the Task Force on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (65th Legislative Session 2342). The standing Committee established by this legislative action shall develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse, ensuring that appropriate policies, funding, staffing, resources and programming are available to prevent child sexual abuse before it happens.

The standing Committee is to focus on:

- increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and non-tribal children and adults
- increasing interagency data collection, sharing and collective analysis
- supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including sentencing, supervision and treatment of sex offenders
- increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors and their families

The standing Committee shall review and, as it deems appropriate, implement the recommendations and suggestions in this report, using them as a foundation for the development of the statewide, cross-agency, cross-jurisdictional strategy to prevent child sexual abuse.

### *Ongoing Considerations*

1. Public forums / meetings to be held in eight regions of the state to build awareness of the issue and to gather information regarding the community's resources for victims of child sexual abuse and their families /caregivers, treatment for offenders and community response for victims. These public forums / meetings will inform the development of community-based education adopted by the Department of Human Services / Department of Public Instruction.
2. A survey to be drafted and disseminated by the Department of Human Services regarding child sexual abuse prevention education available and delivered to licensed child care provider employees and foster parents, inquiring as to the training they have received or if they have any additional training needs. The standing Committee's recommendations presented from the survey may include requiring training be delivered to the child care provider employees or foster parents as a prerequisite to licensing or payment. Any costs associated with this survey will be funded by the legislature, including staffing and resources needed.
3. The creation and funding of Statewide regional investigative units with a primary focus of assisting law enforcement / advocacy / prosecutors (municipal, county, state and tribal) with response to investigations involving alleged child sexual abuse. These regional units (eight distinct regions) would consist of State Criminal Investigators teamed with Licensed Social Workers / Advocates that work directly with Assistant Attorney Generals to ensure proactive, timely and successful victim services; Children's Advocacy Centers when appropriate; detailed and comprehensive criminal investigations and successful prosecution of offenders against children. These regional teams would also be tasked with training peer groups (law enforcement, provider services and prosecutors) in the proper response to child sexual abuse cases.



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4. The Office of the North Dakota Attorney General will review provisions in the current North Dakota Century Code for the purpose of ensuring that there are legal charges and penalties for the infliction of emotional or psychological injury on a child as a result of child maltreatment (abuse and neglect), particularly when the maltreatment is of a sexual nature. The review should include statutes pertaining to both adult and juvenile offenders and may result in new legislation to enact such law.
  5. After reviewing this report, surveys of schools and child care providers, input at public hearings and other appropriate documentation and information, the standing Committee may make recommendations that it deems appropriate.

*Proposed Administrative and / or Legislative Action*

1. North Dakota school districts will annually adopt developmentally appropriate, evidence-based curriculum as approved by each local school board for all prekindergarten to grade twelve tribal and non-tribal students. The curriculum may include instruction on topics such as promoting healthy and respectful relationships, developing and maintaining effective communication with trusted adults, recognizing sexually offending behaviors and gaining awareness of available school and community resources. Curriculum resources will be compiled and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction.
2. North Dakota Public Schools, with the approval of the local school board, will deliver prevention education to parents or caregivers of students. Development of education materials and surveys by the Department of Public instruction shall be funded by the legislature. The prevention education may be delivered in any number of ways as proposed by each local school board. The methods of delivering the education may include delivering the information in a publication such as a school handbook that is distributed to every student annually, in-person, e-learning or other mechanisms determined by the Department to be appropriate. A school survey will be developed and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the survey will be to assess North Dakota Public Schools' current sexual violence prevention and intervention practices and parent, guardian and student education and to provide baseline data for future comparison. Data gathered from surveys will inform understanding of the current response and the development of new and existing curricula.
3. North Dakota Public Schools will ensure that adults employed in schools receive orientation information on the identification of and reporting of child sexual abuse. The Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Human Services, with adequate funding from the legislature for staff and resources, shall provide materials to any school board that requests assistance in implementing this requirement. Data gathered from school surveys will inform the development of the curriculum.



4. The Department of Human Services will receive additional funds necessary for Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota (PCAND) staff and resources to expand existing efforts by PCAND to implement and manage the Handle with Care program in North Dakota Public Schools. The Department of Public Instruction will encourage schools to participate in Handle with Care when the program becomes available in their area, and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office will encourage law enforcement jurisdictions to cooperate with the program protocol.
5. The Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop and fund community-based awareness education delivered to adults, youth serving organizations and other organizations, about the following: a) nature and extent of child sexual abuse, including topics such as the role of adults in protecting children, b) community services and resources to help child victims and c) how to report incidents of abuse. The Department of Human Services shall receive legislative appropriations to fund the prevention education. Non-profit and other community-based organizations may in turn apply for funding from the Department to deliver adult education in their communities.





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**House Education  
January 15, 2019  
HB 1237  
Testimony in Opposition**

Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee my name is Lisa Feldner, representing the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders. We stand before you today in opposition to HB 1237 which creates a new chapter in Century Code on child sexual abuse education.

Subsection 1 requires the Department of Public Instruction and the ND Department of Human Services to develop information and resources regarding child sexual abuse and prevention. It would then require each school district to make that information available to students and parents.

NDCEL has several concerns with subsection 1.

1. The staff at the Department of Public Instruction are not experts in child sexual abuse. They are educators. Asking people without appropriate training to develop information in an area as sensitive as this is not advisable.
2. By requiring the information be made available to all students, it could trigger memories in sexual abuse victims causing them to relive their trauma.
3. By making the information and resources available, the expectation is that students will be able to obtain counseling and help from the school. However, educators are not trained in how to work with child sexual abuse victims.

Subsection 2 requires the Department of Public Instruction and the ND Department of Human Services to develop a survey to assess child sexual abuse and intervention practices. Each school in the state must use the survey annually and report the results to NDDPI.

NDCEL has concerns with subsection 2.

1. Schools already assess sexual behavior using the annual Youth Risk Behavior survey. While it does not specifically ask about sexual abuse, the survey does have a section with questions on forced sex.

NDCEL agrees that child sexual abuse is a very serious problem. However, we do not believe the requirements in this bill are the best way to address it.

Thank you for allowing us to provide our input.



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#1

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Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Introduced by

Representatives Roers Jones, Satrom, Schneider

Senator Clemens

1 A BILL for an Act; to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to child sexual abuse education in schools to provide for a task force on  
3 prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative  
4 management and the governor.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

6 ~~SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~  
7 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~Child sexual abuse education.~~

9 ~~1. The superintendent of public instruction, in collaboration with the department of human~~  
10 ~~services, shall develop information and resources regarding child sexual abuse and~~  
11 ~~prevention, and shall require each school district and nonpublic school to make the~~  
12 ~~information available to students and the parents or legal guardians of the students.~~

13 ~~2. The superintendent of public instruction, in collaboration with the department of human~~  
14 ~~services, shall develop a survey to be disseminated to each school in the state~~  
15 ~~annually to assess current child sexual abuse prevention and intervention practices.~~  
16 ~~Each school district shall report the results of the survey to the superintendent of~~  
17 ~~public instruction.~~

18 ~~3. The superintendent shall facilitate an annual meeting to analyze the survey data and~~  
19 ~~update the child sexual abuse prevention information, resources, and intervention~~  
20 ~~practices. The meeting must include teachers, school administrators, representatives~~  
21 ~~of the department of human services, and other stakeholders.~~

22 ~~4. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to implement this section.~~

23 **SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN -**  
24 **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND THE GOVERNOR.**

- 1       1. Beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending September 30, 2024, the task  
2       force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children is established to develop and  
3       implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual  
4       abuse. The statewide approach must ensure appropriate policies, funding, staffing,  
5       resources, and programming are available. The task force shall build upon the efforts  
6       of the 2017-18 North Dakota task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
- 7       2. The task force consists of the following members:
  - 8       a. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one  
9       member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the  
10      house of representatives, and one member of the minority party appointed by the  
11      minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;
  - 12     b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive  
13      director's designee;
  - 14     c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that  
15      assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and  
16      physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of  
17      human services;
  - 18     d. A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse,  
19      appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
  - 20     e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
  - 21     f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;
  - 22     g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive  
23      director's designee;
  - 24     h. One superintendent from an urban school district and one from a rural school  
25      district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - 26     i. One principal from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the  
27      state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by  
28      the North Dakota council of educational leaders;
  - 29     j. One classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school  
30      in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list  
31      provided by North Dakota united;



- 1 k. One school counselor from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in
- 2 the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list
- 3 provided by the North Dakota school counselors association; and
- 4 l. Any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate.
- 5 3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's
- 6 designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by
- 7 a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the
- 8 call of the presiding officer.
- 9 4. The task force shall focus on:
- 10 a. Increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and nontribal
- 11 children and adults;
- 12 b. Increasing interagency data collection, sharing, and collective analysis;
- 13 c. Supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child
- 14 sexual abuse, including the sentencing, supervision, and treatment of sex
- 15 offenders;
- 16 d. Increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and families;
- 17 and
- 18 e. Implementing the remaining recommendations of the November 2018 final report
- 19 of the North Dakota task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.
- 20 5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory
- 21 changes, actions the task force deems necessary and appropriate to initiate
- 22 awareness education of adults and children, and methods to foster cooperation among
- 23 state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and
- 24 implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include:
- 25 a. Developmentally appropriate resources for students in prekindergarten through
- 26 grade twelve;
- 27 b. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;
- 28 c. Educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks
- 29 regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed
- 30 assistance, referral, or resource information;
- 31 d. Available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse;



- 1 e. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be
- 2 successful in school; and
- 3 f. Any other action deemed appropriate.
- 4 6. Before July first of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report,
- 5 together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and
- 6 the governor. Before July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report, together
- 7 with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the
- 8 governor.

Testimony in Support of amended HB 1237  
February 12, 2019

*Handed in with  
Rep. Schneider  
testimony*

*HB 1237  
2-12-19  
#1*

Chairman Owens and  
Members of the Committee

My name is Anna Frissell. I am the Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center, located in Fargo and Grand Forks and serving the Eastern side of North Dakota. I offer the following written testimony in support of the amended House Bill 1237 which focuses on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

In 2017, Senate Bill 2342 was passed, creating the North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual ("Task Force"), to "gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state and develop recommendations to reduce child sexual abuse." The Task Force was composed of multi-agency, multi-disciplinary representatives who began meeting in March 2018, with the goal of providing a report to the Governor's Office and the Legislative Management in the fall of 2018. A copy of the Task Force's final report, North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, has been distributed to this Committee.

During the course of the Task Force meetings, we heard from local, regional and national experts on child sexual abuse and its remarkable impact on the children who are the victims, their families and our society. We learned that there are an estimated 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the United States. We also know from research that the number of actual victims is exponentially larger because 60% of victims never tell.<sup>1, 2</sup> Likewise, we were told that nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children aged seventeen (17) and under.<sup>3, 4</sup>

The Task Force heard about the numbers in North Dakota: the North Dakota Attorney General's Office reported in 2017 that there were 587 child sexual abuse victims; the North Dakota Department of Human Services responded in 2018 to 1307 reports of suspected child abuse cases; in 2018 the North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed 826 children who presented primarily for sexual abuse; while the Crisis Centers across the state provided services to 364 child sexual abuse victims.<sup>5</sup>

There is plenty of data telling us how imperative it is to launch a comprehensive prevention effort to stop child sexual abuse. We know that children who are sexually abused are at significantly greater risk for a wide variety of mental health and health problems including PTSD, anxiety, depression and suicide<sup>6</sup>. They're more likely to have substance abuse issues<sup>5</sup>, delinquency<sup>6</sup>, and academic difficulties<sup>9</sup>. They are at increased risk for teen pregnancy<sup>7</sup>, other sexual behavior problems<sup>8</sup> and eating disorders<sup>10</sup>. Not only does child sexual abuse affect children, often adults who were abused as children carry this pain with them for a lifetime<sup>13</sup>. Adults with a history of child sexual abuse are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, stroke or hypertension.<sup>11</sup> And if the horrible mental health, physical and emotional toll is not enough to make us act, the Centers of Disease Control has recently estimated the lifetime cost of ~~child abuse to be~~ approximately \$210,012 per victim, recognizing it as a public health crisis.<sup>12</sup>

During the process of gathering information, the Task Force found that many organizations and communities in North Dakota have begun the battle, creating, adopting and incorporating primary or tertiary prevention efforts into their work. In the primary prevention education arena, the Task Force looked at the work of the

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Pledge to Protect in Cass County, and the use of Darkness to Light and Red Flag Green Flag in many areas of the state.

The three levels of prevention are distinctively different. Primary prevention is preventing damage from occurring in the first place, secondary is intended to identify and intervene in situations of high risk and tertiary prevention seeks to lessen the damage that has already been done. Most programs across the state focus on secondary and tertiary prevention and the Task Force hopes to lay a foundation to expand efforts of primary prevention programming.

If you look at page seven (7) of the report you will see the Task Force recommended that a five (5) year Standing Committee be created to further the work. The Task Force looked at strategic statewide plans for designing and implementing initiatives from Vermont and West Virginia, and received information from Dr. Janet Rosenzweig of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. We also heard from numerous in-state experts. The State initiatives that we looked at all had multiple year commitments to developing a strategy that would work for them. There was no cookie cutter approach. As you can see, on page seven (7) at the top, the Task Force asks that North Dakota embark on this same multiple year journey of discovering what we have and what we want in our state to combat this tragedy!

The need to provide prevention of child sexual abuse education and building awareness was an important focus of the Task Force. One of the themes that the Task Force heard over and over again is how important it is to educate both adults and children. Our North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse recognizes that the safety of children is ultimately the responsibility of adults. Adults need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. In order to fulfill this duty of protection, adults need to be given the

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information they need to act. The more information adults hold about the prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse, the more empowered people will act when confronted by child sexual abuse warning signs. But the Task Force also acknowledged that evidence-based, developmentally appropriate education is highly beneficial for children as it empowers them to discuss feelings of discomfort and/or betrayal and assists them in identifying helpers that can interrupt and end the abuse.

Child sexual abuse is a serious problem; it is everyone's problem; and something needs to be done about it. The good news is that there are ways to prevent child sexual abuse! We need to start talking about how we as adults can lessen the risk to the kids around us every day and we need to be proactive. We also need to educate children so that they recognize healthy relationships, are empowered to say "no" and to have open communication with trusted adults. Research shows that children who have had body safety education are more likely to tell and we need to provide this education.

The members of the Task Force provided a final report embracing the concept and successful work of other states and campaigns all beginning with a long-range strategy planning group over multiple years. In so doing it recommended the ongoing five (5) year standing Committee and the other provisions set out in the amendment.

I want to mention that the first time the Bill was heard there was opposition from educators and the Department of Public Instruction. The educators felt that because of the education issues in the Bill they were under-represented at the five (5) year standing Committee and the Department of Public Instruction opposed the role that it had in the original bill. Following the Committee hearing, some members of the Task Force and representatives of the opposition to the Bill met and reached

agreement for proposed changes to the language which the sponsors of the Bill incorporated into the amendment. It is my understanding that the issues that they were opposed to have been resolved with the amendment.

I write this testimony knowing that historically we have not done enough in North Dakota to prevent child sexual abuse, but that we are poised, because of the amended version of House Bill 1237, to formulate a strategy that will help to protect future generations of innocent children in our state.

Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

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2. Ullman, S. E. (2007). Relationship to perpetrator, disclosure, social reactions, and PTSD symptoms in child sexual abuse survivors. Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 16(1), 19-36.
3. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved January 12, 2009 from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/saycrle.pdf>
4. National Crime Victimization Survey, Statistic calculated by staff at Crimes against Children Research Center. 2002.
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7. Noll, J. G., Shenk, C. E., & Putnam, K. T. (2009). Childhood sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy: A meta-analytic update. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 34, 366-378.
8. Girardet, R. G., Lahoti, S., Howard, L. A., Fajman, N. N., Sawyer, M. K., Driebe, E. M., et al. (2009). Epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections in suspected child victims of sexual assault. *Pediatrics*, 124, 79-84.
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12. Fang, X., Brown, D., Florence, C., Mercy, J. (2012) The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 36:2,156–165.
13. Walker, E.A. Gelfand, A., Katon, W.J., Koss, M.P, Con Korff, M., Bernstien, D., et al. (1999). Medical and psychiatric symptoms in women with children and sexual abuse. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 54, 658-664.

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# North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse



Final Report  
November 2018



## Acknowledgements

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The North Dakota Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children would like to acknowledge victims of child sexual abuse and their families. The injustices faced by this population are those that the task force has dedicated their careers to combatting. The task force recognizes the challenges and barriers faced and the bravery and strength that guides victims through. The task force would also like to thank the North Dakota Legislature and Governor for providing the recommendation to convene the task force to study the problem. This action sends a clear message to all North Dakotans that the problem of child sexual abuse is recognized, and state leadership is committed to providing comprehensive services to those impacted by these issues and supporting efforts to prevent it from continuing.

## Disclaimer

The North Dakota Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children was convened to study the issue of child sexual abuse and make recommendations to the North Dakota Legislature and Governor's Office. This report is not intended to be a comprehensive research study; rather it is a succinct overview of the scope of the problem, the impact of the problem, the current response and recommendations to continue to combat this destructive social problem.

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3/11/19

*Introduction*

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a problem with short and long term effects for those who are victimized. One in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse. The National Center for Victims of Crime<sup>1</sup> showed that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported 56,382 cases of child sexual abuse to state child and family service agencies. In 2016, the North Dakota Department of Human Services responded to over 14,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office (2017) reported 587 child sexual abuse victims. In 2017, in the course of a social service or law enforcement investigation, 774 children were referred to North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers for sexual abuse allegations. With significant cost to families and communities, including primary and rehabilitative health care costs, education and welfare assistance, child protection and justice system costs, the consequences of CSA are far reaching.

*SB 2342 Objectives*

- a. Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state
- b. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations
- c. Create goals for state policy that would prevent child sexual abuse
- d. Submit a final report with its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Management

*Taskforce Development*

In January 2017, the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota passed SB 2342 which stated that "During the 2017-18 interim, a Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children shall gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state and develop recommendations to reduce child sexual abuse." The North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse began meeting in March 2018 with the overall goal of delivering a report to the Governor's Office and the Legislature Management in the fall of 2018.

*Taskforce Members*

- Senator David Clemens, North Dakota Senate
- Valerie Fischer, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
- Anna Frissell, Red River Children's Advocacy Center (Chair)
- Lonnie Grabowska, Bureau of Criminal Investigation / North Dakota Office of the Attorney General
- Dr. Christopher Johnson, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead
- Representative Shannon Roers Jones, North Dakota House of Representatives
- Representative Mary Schneider, North Dakota House of Representatives
- Tom Solberg, North Dakota Department of Human Services
- Sandy Tibke, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
- Erica Thunder, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

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<sup>1</sup> National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). *Child Sexual Abuse Statistics*. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse-sstatistics>.

*CSA Taskforce*

Child sexual abuse includes a wide range of sexual behaviors and activities that take place between a child and another person seeking sexual gratification or exploitation of the child that causes harm to a victim or victim's family.

*Administrative*

Sexually abused child means an individual under the age of 18 years who is subjected to abuse by a person responsible for the child's welfare, or by any individual who acts in violation of sections 12.1-20-01 through 12.1-20-07, sections 12.1-20-11 through 12.1-20-12.2, or chapter 12.1-27.2. While the administrative system (Child Protection Services) uses the same definitions that are used in the criminal code, the standard of evidence or "level of proof" required in order to support a decision that services are required for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child is a simple preponderance of evidence (more than 50%) versus proof "beyond a reasonable doubt" required by the criminal court (NDCC Chapter 50-25.1-02).

*Legal*

The State of North Dakota has multiple applicable criminal laws contained in the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC). The most commonly used criminal laws applied to child sexual abuse are located in NDCC, Chapter 12.1-20. Commonly applied laws are gross sexual imposition, continuous sexual abuse of a child, sexual assault, corruption or solicitation of minors, luring minors by computer, incest, indecent exposure, promoting obscenity to minors, minor performing in obscene performance and human trafficking.

*Tribal*

Confusion regarding jurisdiction in Indian Country remains a problem. Jurisdiction continues to be a patchwork of tribal, state and federal jurisdiction that varies depending on the crime, identity of the perpetrator, identity of the victim and the location of the offense. Congress has passed a web of laws that assert federal jurisdiction over crimes that occur on Indian reservations, including child sexual abuse. State jurisdiction exists when two non-Indians commit crimes against one another within the boundaries of Indian Country. Every tribe has a unique tribal code that may include further laws defining child sexual abuse. Tribes also have several law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction that may be involved in the investigation of a child sexual abuse case. The agencies include tribal law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



*Scope of the Problem: Nationally*

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a problem with both short and long term effects for those who are victimized. It is reported that one in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse<sup>2</sup>. Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident<sup>3</sup>. Reported across all socioeconomic and ethnic groups, both male and female, CSA is a problem of great magnitude<sup>4</sup>. With significant cost to families and communities, including primary and rehabilitative health care costs, education and welfare assistance, child protection and justice system costs, the consequences of CSA are far-reaching<sup>5</sup>.

Proving to be a problem of considerable proportion, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that 56,382 cases of child sexual abuse had been reported to state child and family service agencies in 2016. Due to the nature of CSA, it is likely that incidences are underreported due to children being afraid of the repercussions they may face from their abuser, feeling ashamed, embarrassed or blaming themselves for the abuse. Further, some children may not report being a victim of sexual abuse due to their lack of understanding of child sexual abuse.

Violent victimization of Indians and Alaska natives is 2.5 times greater than that of other ethnic and racial subgroups within the United States<sup>6</sup>. Shocking homicide rates, skyrocketing levels of juvenile justice issues, child abuse (including child sexual abuse), an exhausted child welfare system, staggering numbers of tribal youth in out-of-home placements, high levels of turnover and lack of resources for law enforcement and substance abuse plague the over 1.4 million people who populate tribal land.

*Scope of the Problem: North Dakota*

North Dakota is not exempt from what is seen on the national level. In 2018, the ND Department of Human Services responded to 1307 reports of suspected child sexual abuse. In 2017, the North Dakota Attorney General's Office reported 587 child sexual abuse victims, North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed 826 children who presented primarily for sexual abuse, and North Dakota crisis centers provided services to 364 child sexual abuse victims. Confusion regarding criminal jurisdiction and lack of resources contribute to an increased crime rate in Indian Country. These and other contributing factors have an undeniable impact on North Dakota tribal youth who are victim to falling through gaps in services, lack of services or geographic barriers to services.

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<sup>2</sup> National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). Child Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>.

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). Child Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>.

<sup>4</sup> Walsh, K.Z., Woolfenden, S., & Shlonsky, A. (2015). School-based education programs for the prevention of child sexual abuse (Review). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 4(CD004380), 1-121.

<sup>5</sup> Fang, X., Brown, D.S., Florence, C.S., & Mercy, J.A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. Child Abuse & Neglect, 36(2), 156-65.

<sup>6</sup> United States U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Public Law 280 and Law Enforcement in Indian Country: Research Priorities (Washington, DC, 2005). <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/209839.pdf> (accessed October 16, 2018).

The estimated cost can be determined by using North Dakota Children's Advocacy Numbers. However, there are two important limitations to this method: (1) these numbers represent only the allegations of children who can actually make their way to a Children's Advocacy Center, and (2) the majority of child sexual abuse victims do not disclose the abuse. In 2017, the North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers reported 826 children and youth (540 female and 286 male) who were provided a forensic interview. It is estimated that the lifetime cost of child sexual abuse for a female = \$282,734 and a male = \$71,691<sup>7</sup>. For those children who were sexually abused, reported their abuse and received services at a North Dakota Children's Advocacy Center in 2017, the estimated lifetime expense is \$154,813,120.

## Current Response

### *Systems of Care*

There are a multitude of agencies that make up a comprehensive system of care. The criminal justice system, juvenile justice, judicial system at large, law enforcement, child welfare, human service centers, healthcare providers, Indian health systems, education institutions, youth-serving organizations, childcare providers, faith communities, non-profit organizations and informal networks of family and friends create a safety net for those at-risk or impacted by child sexual abuse. By providing education to all and strengthening the formal response system, North Dakota can join other states that have drastically decreased instances of child sexual abuse by providing in-school education, adult education, advocacy, and behavioral health services and increasing primary prevention efforts.

### *Prevention*

Many organizations have adopted and incorporated primary, secondary or tertiary prevention efforts into their work. Though these efforts look similar across industries, the three levels of prevention are distinctively different. Primary prevention is preventing damage from occurring in the first place, secondary is intended to identify and intervene in situations of high risk and tertiary prevention seeks to lessen the damage that has already been done. Most programs across the state have focused on secondary and tertiary with the intent to incorporate more primary prevention programming.

### *In-school Education*

The task force acknowledges that evidence-based, age-appropriate education is a benefit for children as it empowers them to discuss feelings of discomfort and / or betrayal and assists them in identifying helpers that can interrupt and end the abuse. In addition, teachers and parents should receive complementary education and / or status notification that enables everyone to speak common language and monitor the health and safety of children.

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<sup>7</sup> Letourneau, E. J., Brown, D. S., Fang, X., Hassan, A., & Mercy, J. A. (2018). The economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 79, 413-422.



The task force recognizes that the safety of children is ultimately the responsibility of adults. Adults need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. In order to fulfill this duty of protection, adults need to be given the information they need to act. The more information adults hold about the prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse, the more empowered people will act when confronted by child sexual abuse warning signs.

### *Advocacy*

Advocacy for children varies but is commonly provided by interdependent organizations that deliver services to victims and their families or may offer policy and statewide efforts on their behalf. Advocates are employed throughout the state, most commonly in the non-profit sector. The primary role of advocates is to get resources together that will ultimately protect the child and family from future harm, assist in coordinating the criminal justice process and refer to others that can assist the child and family in addressing trauma.

### *Therapy*

Providing therapy to child sexual abuse victims and their families requires a variety of evidence-based approaches that have demonstrated effectiveness at reducing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in children. Some examples of evidence-based treatments for PTSD in children are trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT); child and family traumatic stress intervention (CFTSI); alternatives for families, a cognitive behavioral therapy (AF-CBT); and problem sexual behaviors cognitive behavior therapy (PSB-CBT). Mental health services have the primary objective of assisting the child and their family in processing trauma and developing skills to reduce the long-term impact of trauma and help the child and family move forward in life.



*ND Reported Cases*

- North Dakota and National Statistics / National initiatives / North Dakota Children's Alliance, North Dakota Department of Human Services Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Efforts (Marlys Baker, North Dakota Department of Human Services)
- Child Sexual Abuse Statistics (Lonnie Grabowska, Bureau of Criminal Investigation)

*Population Specific*

- Tribal Child Welfare, Native American Cultural Awareness Training and Culturally Appropriate Responses for Native American Victims of Sexual Assault (Erica Thunder, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission)
- North Dakota MIECHV Program (Sandy Tibke, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota)
- Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts (Emily Schwartz, North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force)
- The State of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention in Indian Country (Sandra Bercier, First Nations Women's Alliance)

*Law Enforcement / Legal / Legislative*

- Law Enforcement Role in CSA Investigations (Scott Betz, Bismarck Police Department)
- Introduction to Senate Bill 2342, Creating the Task Force (Rep. Bernie Satrom)
- Legal Perspective, Criminal Law and Prosecution (Britta Demello-Rice, North Dakota Attorney General's Office)
- Risk Assessment for Community Notification (Jonathan Byers, North Dakota Attorney General's Office)

*Education and Programming*

- Red Flag Green Flag® (Melanie Fierstine and Dr. Christopher Johnson, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead)
- Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota Statistics and Prevention Education (Paula Condol, North Dakota Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers)
- North Dakota Children's Caucus (Tara Mulhauser, North Dakota Children's Caucus)
- Prevention Overview and Discussion, Handle with Care (Sandy Tibke and Jennifer Boub, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota)
- North Dakota Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Centers' response to Child Sexual Abuse (Janelle Moos, CAWS North Dakota)

*Prevention*

- Health Prevention Education in ND Schools (Valerie Fischer, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction)
- Vermont Prevent Child Abuse Initiative (Linda Johnson, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont)
- West Virginia Prevention Initiative (Jim McKay, Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia)
- Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (Dr. Janet Rosenzweig, The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children)
- Pledge to Protect Campaign and Community Prevention Education (Anna Frissell, Red River Children's Advocacy Center)



*Proposed Legislation*

The task force recommends legislative action to establish a standing Committee which shall serve for no less than five years and build on the work of the Task Force on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (65th Legislative Session 2342). The standing Committee established by this legislative action shall develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse, ensuring that appropriate policies, funding, staffing, resources and programming are available to prevent child sexual abuse before it happens.

The standing Committee is to focus on:

- increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and non-tribal children and adults
- increasing interagency data collection, sharing and collective analysis
- supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including sentencing, supervision and treatment of sex offenders
- increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors and their families

The standing Committee shall review and, as it deems appropriate, implement the recommendations and suggestions in this report, using them as a foundation for the development of the statewide, cross-agency, cross-jurisdictional strategy to prevent child sexual abuse.

*Ongoing Considerations*

1. Public forums / meetings to be held in eight regions of the state to build awareness of the issue and to gather information regarding the community's resources for victims of child sexual abuse and their families /caregivers, treatment for offenders and community response for victims. These public forums / meetings will inform the development of community-based education adopted by the Department of Human Services / Department of Public Instruction.
2. A survey to be drafted and disseminated by the Department of Human Services regarding child sexual abuse prevention education available and delivered to licensed child care provider employees and foster parents, inquiring as to the training they have received or if they have any additional training needs. The standing Committee's recommendations presented from the survey may include requiring training be delivered to the child care provider employees or foster parents as a prerequisite to licensing or payment. Any costs associated with this survey will be funded by the legislature, including staffing and resources needed.
3. The creation and funding of Statewide regional investigative units with a primary focus of assisting law enforcement / advocacy / prosecutors (municipal, county, state and tribal) with response to investigations involving alleged child sexual abuse. These regional units (eight distinct regions) would consist of State Criminal Investigators teamed with Licensed Social Workers / Advocates that work directly with Assistant Attorney Generals to ensure proactive, timely and successful victim services; Children's Advocacy Centers when appropriate; detailed and comprehensive criminal investigations and successful prosecution of offenders against children. These regional teams would also be tasked with training peer groups (law enforcement, provider services and prosecutors) in the proper response to child sexual abuse cases.



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4. The Office of the North Dakota Attorney General will review provisions in the current North Dakota Century Code for the purpose of ensuring that there are legal charges and penalties for the infliction of emotional or psychological injury on a child as a result of child maltreatment (abuse and neglect), particularly when the maltreatment is of a sexual nature. The review should include statutes pertaining to both adult and juvenile offenders and may result in new legislation to enact such law.
5. After reviewing this report, surveys of schools and child care providers, input at public hearings and other appropriate documentation and information, the standing Committee may make recommendations that it deems appropriate.

*Proposed Administrative and / or Legislative Action*

1. North Dakota school districts will annually adopt developmentally appropriate, evidence-based curriculum as approved by each local school board for all prekindergarten to grade twelve tribal and non-tribal students. The curriculum may include instruction on topics such as promoting healthy and respectful relationships, developing and maintaining effective communication with trusted adults, recognizing sexually offending behaviors and gaining awareness of available school and community resources. Curriculum resources will be compiled and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction.
2. North Dakota Public Schools, with the approval of the local school board, will deliver prevention education to parents or caregivers of students. Development of education materials and surveys by the Department of Public instruction shall be funded by the legislature. The prevention education may be delivered in any number of ways as proposed by each local school board. The methods of delivering the education may include delivering the information in a publication such as a school handbook that is distributed to every student annually, in-person, e-learning or other mechanisms determined by the Department to be appropriate. A school survey will be developed and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the survey will be to assess North Dakota Public Schools' current sexual violence prevention and intervention practices and parent, guardian and student education and to provide baseline data for future comparison. Data gathered from surveys will inform understanding of the current response and the development of new and existing curricula.
3. North Dakota Public Schools will ensure that adults employed in schools receive orientation information on the identification of and reporting of child sexual abuse. The Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Human Services, with adequate funding from the legislature for staff and resources, shall provide materials to any school board that requests assistance in implementing this requirement. Data gathered from school surveys will inform the development of the curriculum.

4. The Department of Human Services will receive additional funds necessary for Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota (PCAND) staff and resources to expand existing efforts by PCAND to implement and manage the Handle with Care program in North Dakota Public Schools. The Department of Public Instruction will encourage schools to participate in Handle with Care when the program becomes available in their area, and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office will encourage law enforcement jurisdictions to cooperate with the program protocol.
5. The Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop and fund community-based awareness education delivered to adults, youth serving organizations and other organizations, about the following: a) nature and extent of child sexual abuse, including topics such as the role of adults in protecting children, b) community services and resources to help child victims and c) how to report incidents of abuse. The Department of Human Services shall receive legislative appropriations to fund the prevention education. Non-profit and other community-based organizations may in turn apply for funding from the Department to deliver adult education in their communities.



Testimony in Support of HB 1237  
March 11, 2019

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3/11/19

Larson  
Chairman ~~Hogue~~ and  
Members of the Committee

My name is Anna Frissell. I am the Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center, located in Fargo and Grand Forks and serving the Eastern side of North Dakota. I offer the following written testimony in support of the amended House Bill 1237 which focuses on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

In 2017, Senate Bill 2342 was passed, creating the North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual ("Task Force"), to "gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state and develop recommendations to reduce child sexual abuse." The Task Force was composed of multi-agency, multi-disciplinary representatives who began meeting in March 2018, with the goal of providing a report to the Governor's Office and the Legislative Management in the fall of 2018. A copy of the Task Force's final report, North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, has been distributed to this Committee.

During the course of the Task Force meetings, we heard from local, regional and national experts on child sexual abuse and its remarkable impact on the children who are the victims, their families and our society. We learned that there are an estimated 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the United States. We also know from research that the number of actual victims is exponentially larger because 60% of victims never tell.<sup>1,2</sup> Likewise, we were told that nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children aged seventeen (17) and under.<sup>3,4</sup>

The Task Force heard about the numbers of children for example in North Dakota: the North Dakota Department of Human Services responded in 2018 to 1307 reports of suspected child abuse cases; in 2018 the North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed 826 children who presented primarily for sexual abuse; while the Crisis Centers across the state provided services to 364 child sexual abuse victims.<sup>5</sup>

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There is plenty of data telling us how imperative it is to launch a comprehensive prevention effort to stop child sexual abuse. We know that children who are sexually abused are at significantly greater risk for a wide variety of mental health and health problems including PTSD, anxiety, depression and suicide<sup>6</sup>. They're more likely to have substance abuse issues<sup>5</sup>, delinquency<sup>6</sup>, and academic difficulties<sup>9</sup>. They are at increased risk for teen pregnancy<sup>7</sup>, other sexual behavior problems<sup>8</sup> and eating disorders<sup>10</sup>. Not only does child sexual abuse affect children, often adults who were abused as children carry this pain with them for a lifetime<sup>13</sup>. Adults with a history of child sexual abuse are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, stroke or hypertension.<sup>11</sup> And if the horrible mental health, physical and emotional toll is not enough to make us act, the Centers of Disease Control has recently estimated the lifetime cost of child abuse to be approximately \$210,012 per victim, recognizing it as a public health crisis.<sup>12</sup>

During the process of gathering information, the Task Force found that many organizations and communities in North Dakota have begun the battle, creating, adopting and incorporating primary or tertiary prevention efforts into their work. In the primary prevention education arena, the Task Force looked at the work of the



Pledge to Protect in Cass County, and the use of Darkness to Light and Red Flag Green Flag in many areas of the state.

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The three levels of prevention are distinctively different. Primary prevention is preventing damage from occurring in the first place, secondary is intended to identify and intervene in situations of high risk and tertiary prevention seeks to lessen the damage that has already been done. Most programs across the state focus on secondary and tertiary prevention and the Task Force hoped to lay a foundation to expand efforts of primary prevention programming.

If you look at page seven (7) of the report you will see the Task Force recommended that a five (5) year Standing Committee be created to further the work. The Task Force looked at strategic statewide plans for designing and implementing initiatives from Vermont and West Virginia, and received information from Dr. Janet Rosenzweig of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. We also heard from numerous in-state experts. The State initiatives that we looked at all had multiple year commitments to developing a strategy that would work for them. There was no cookie cutter approach. As you can see, on page seven (7) at the top, the Task Force asks that North Dakota embark on this same multiple year journey of discovering what we have and what we want in our state to combat this tragedy!

The need to provide prevention of child sexual abuse education and building awareness was an important focus of the Task Force. One of the themes that the Task Force heard over and over again is how important it is to educate both adults and children. Our North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse recognizes that the safety of children is ultimately the responsibility of adults. Adults need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. In order to fulfill this duty of protection, adults need to be given the



information they need to act. The more information adults hold about the prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse, the more empowered people will be to act when confronted by child sexual abuse warning signs. But the Task Force also acknowledged that evidence-based, developmentally appropriate education is highly beneficial for children as it empowers them to discuss feelings of discomfort and/or betrayal and assists them in identifying helpers that can interrupt and end the abuse.

Child sexual abuse is a serious problem; it is everyone's problem; and something needs to be done about it. The good news is that there are ways to prevent child sexual abuse! We need to start talking about how we as adults can lessen the risk to the kids around us every day and we need to be proactive. We also need to educate children so that they recognize healthy relationships, are empowered to say "no" and to have open communication with trusted adults. Research shows that children who have had body safety education are more likely to tell and we need to provide this education.

The members of the Task Force provided a final report embracing the concept and successful work of other states and campaigns all beginning with a long-range strategy planning group over multiple years. In so doing it recommended the ongoing five (5) year standing Committee and the other provisions set out in the amendment.

I write this testimony believing that although historically we have not done enough in North Dakota to prevent child sexual abuse, we are poised, because of the House Bill 1237, to formulate a strategy that will help to protect future generations of innocent children in our state.

Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

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## Testimony in Favor of House Bill 1237

**Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota  
March 11, 2019**

Good morning Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota. I am testifying in favor of House Bill 1237 and respectfully request that you recommend a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Our organization is dedicated to fighting for pro-life and pro-family values, and the topic of child abuse certainly falls squarely within this mandate. At Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota, we believe that family is God-designed and is the single best institution for the creation, protection, and provision of children. Family is the building block of society—from it flows life and the imparting of faith and values. Families give rise to communities, and communities to societies. Families are the bedrock of who we are as a nation and as a state.

Unfortunately, the family foundation is shaken to its core when child abuse occurs. Over sixty percent of abused children nation-wide are abused by a family member. This happens for many possible reasons: illegal substance abuse, drinking problems/alcoholism, caregivers inclined towards violence, etc. Further, when a family member abuses a child, the child often keeps quiet about being sexually abused out of what they perceive as family loyalty, fear of retaliation, misperception that they are to blame, and similar reasons. Abuse in the home undermines one of the most important purposes of the family: the nurturing and protection of children.

In addition to child abuse by family members, many other children are abused by individuals outside of their family. These individuals are frequently relatives or family friends. The abused child often does not want to reveal the experience for the same reasons as with a family member.

When it comes to child abuse in our state, the North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse issued their final report in November of last year. According to the report, the North Dakota Department of Human Services in 2018 responded to 1,307 reports of suspected child sexual abuse. This is 1,307 needed interventions too many. In a perfect world, child abuse would not exist; however, we don't yet live in a perfect world. As a result, we are compelled as individuals and a society to do what we can to stop the trail of damaged lives and pain created by child abuse.

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FamilyPolicyAlliance.com/NorthDakota



Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota believes that House Bill 1237 is an important step in the right direction to help end the scourge of child abuse. There is a quote that goes something like this, "An unseen enemy is always the most feared." This bill and its mandate to retain a task force focused on child abuse will further help bring the enemy of child abuse into the light of day and allow all of us to best determine how to defeat it.

I suspect some of us in this room today have been impacted directly or indirectly by a child abuse situation. I can tell you that my wife and I have a member of our extended family who was abused by a family friend when she was a child. She is still haunted by this experience, 50+ years later. My heart breaks for her. If we can prevent tragedies like this from happening, then it is well worth it to do all we can to dedicate more resources to fight child abuse.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you vote House Bill 1237 out of committee with a "DO PASS" recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will stand for any questions you may have.

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Senate Judiciary Committee

March 11, 2019

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Madam chair and members of the committee, my name is Rod Backman here today representing the State Association of Non-Public Schools (SANS).

The SANS group is supportive of this legislation and would like to be a designated part of the task force. They have been involved in many of the state's education task forces in the past and would appreciate your consideration of the amendment I have submitted with my testimony. The amendment adds an administrator from a non-public school to the task force.

To illustrate SANS' past involvement I have also attached testimony from Tracy Friesen on another bill where she talks about the non-public schools participation and the benefits. Ms. Friesen could not be here today as she is in New York with a national accreditation team working for an education system with over 30,000 students. She has given me permission to share her testimony from SB 2215.

Madam Chair, I am happy to take any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Rod Backman

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## TESTIMONY FOR 2215

Representation for non-public schools has been and is evident through various North Dakota K-12 committees, councils, and task forces. Non-public schools had representation on the ND State Assessment Task Force that met in 2016. The current ESSA State Planning Committee has a representative for non-public schools that is a member of the general planning committee as well as two sub committees. Various non-public educators serve and have served on ND Content Standards Committees in the revision of academic standards.

Non-public schools want and choose to be an active participant in state wide initiatives in an effort to stay connected and contribute to state wide academic endeavors. These connections create a conduit for clear communication to stakeholders throughout the state to the leaders, educators, parents, and students in non-public schools. Many of the non-public schools choose to adhere to the approval criteria and guidelines that are mandated for public schools. Also, many of the non-public schools choose to participate with the AdvancED accreditation continuous improvement process.

Best regards,

Tracy Friesen

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## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL NO. 1237

Page 2, line 15, remove "and"

Page 2, line 16, insert "One administrator from a non-public school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the state association of non-public schools; and"

Renumber accordingly

March 20, 2019

#1  
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3-27-19

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Page 2, line 5, remove "One superintendent from an urban school district and one from a rural school"

Page 2, remove line 6

Page 2, line 7, replace "i. One principal" with "Two principals, one"

Page 2, line 7, replace "high school, middle school, or elementary" with "rural"

Page 2, line 7, after "school" insert "district and one from an urban school district"

Page 2, line 8, remove "from a list provided by"

Page 2, line 9, remove "the North Dakota council of educational leaders"

Page 2, line 10, replace "j." with "i."

Page 2, line 10, replace "classroom teacher" with "school social worker"

Page 2, line 13, replace "k." with "j."

Page 2, line 15, remove "and"

Page 2, after line 15, insert:

"k. One member from the faith-based community, appointed by the department of human services; and

Renumber accordingly

March 19, 2019

#2  
HB 1237  
3.27.19

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Page 1, line 19, replace "A representative" with "Two representatives"

Page 2, line 5, replace "superintendent" with "school social worker"

Page 2, line 10, replace "classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school" with "member of a faith-based organization"

Page 2, line 13, replace "One" with "Two"

Page 2, line 13, replace "counselor" with "counselors"

Renumber accordingly



March 28, 2019

#1  
HB 1237  
4.1.19

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Page 1, line 23, replace "an organization" with "a domestic violence rape crisis center"

Page 1, line 23, after "abuse" insert "or the treatment of child abuse victims, or both"

Page 2, line 5, replace "superintendent" with "school social worker"

Page 2, line 5, replace "an urban" with "a public"

Page 2, line 5, remove "and one from a rural school"

Page 2, line 6, remove "district"

Page 2, line 7, replace "One principal" with "Two school principals, one"

Page 2, line 7, replace "a high school, middle school, or elementary" with "an urban school district and one from a rural"

Page 2, line 7, after the third "school" insert "district"

Page 2, line 10, remove "classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school"

Page 2, line 11, replace "in the state" with "member from the faith-based community"

Page 2, line 11, remove "superintendent of public instruction from a list"

Page 2, line 12, replace "provided by North Dakota united" with "attorney general"

Page 2, line 13, replace "One" with "Two"

Page 2, line 13, replace "counselor" with "counselors, one"

Page 2, line 13, replace "a high school, middle school, or elementary" with "an urban school district and one from a rural"

Page 2, line 13, after the fourth "school" insert "district"

Renumber accordingly