2023 SENATE JUDICIARY

SB 2213

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
1/24/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a law enforcement resiliency grant program.

10:59 AM Madam Chair Larson called the hearing to order. **Madam Chair Larson, Senators, Paulson, Sickler, Braunberger, Estenson, Luick, and Myrdal** were present.

Discussion Topics

- Grants
- Additional provisions
- Funding amounts
- Conservative funds
- Workforce safety coverage
- Workplace injuries
- Traumas
- Workplace violence
- Peer support
- RC program
- Child exploitation
- Collaboration
- Secondary post traumatic distress
- Donated time.
- RST support program

10:59 AM Senator Dwyer introduced SB 2213.

11:02 AM Emily Schwartz, North Dakota Human trafficking Task Force, Dakota Children's advocacy Center, provided verbal testimony in support and written. #15639

11:11 AM Madam Chair Larson, provided verbal testimony in support of SB 2213.

11:14 AM Ashley Bates, Deputy Cass County Sheriff's Office, provided verbal testimony in support and written. #15671

11:22 AM Taylor Shiller, Detective, Ward County Sheriff's Department, provided verbal testimony in support and written. #15875

11:24 AM Jason Kraft, Captain, Ward County Sheriff's Department, provided verbal testimony in support and written. #14834

11:27 AM Aaron Hummel, Chief of Staff, ND Highway Patrol, provided verbal testimony

11:30 AM Paula Condol, **Executive Director-Dakota Children's Advocacy Center,** provided verbal online testimony.

Additional written testimony:
Senator Myrdal proposed amendments to SB 2213. #16801
Stephan Posrygula Clinical and forensic psychologist. #15801

11:34 AM Madam Chair Larson closed the hearing on SB 2213 and adjourned the meeting.

Patricia Wilkens, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
1/25/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a law enforcement resiliency grant program.

9:24 AM Chairman Larson opened the meeting.

Chairman Larson and Senators Myrdal, Luick, Estenson, Sickler, Paulson and Braunberger were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee bill discussion

9:25 AM Chairman Larson spoke in favor of a Do Pass.

9:29 AM Chairman closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
1/25/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a law enforcement resiliency grant program.

10:27 AM Chairman Larson opened the meeting.

Chairman Larson and Senators Myrdal, Luick, Estenson, Sickler, Paulson and Braunberger are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

10:33 AM Senator Myrdal moved to do pass proposed amendments LC 23.0546.03001. Senator Braunberger seconded the motion.

10:34 AM Roll call vote was taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	Y
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y

Motion to amend passes 7-0-0.

10:36 AM Aaron Hummel, Chief of Staff for North Dakota Highway Patrol provided oral testimony.

10:57 AM Chairman Larson closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

23.0546.03001
Title.04000

Adopted by the Senate Judiciary Committee

January 31, 2023

DK
1 of 1
1-31-2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2213

Page 1, line 9, after the period insert "Any organization that receives a grant under this section shall report to the attorney general and the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of the funds received and the outcomes of its programs."

Renumber accordingly

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
1/31/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a law enforcement resiliency grant program.

8:56 AM Chairman Larson called the meeting to order.

Present are Chairman Larson and Senators Myrdal, Luick, Estenson, Sickler, Braunberger and Paulson.

Discussion Topics:

- Counseling

8:56 AM Aaron Hummel, Chief of Staff North Dakota Highway Patrol, provided further information for the committee, no written testimony.

8:58 AM Chairman Larson closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
1/31/2023

A bill to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a law enforcement resiliency grant program

11:27 AM Chairman Larson opened the meeting.

Chairman Larson, Senators Myrdal, Luick, Estenson, Sickler, Braunberger and Paulson are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:34 AM Senator Braunberger moves to Do Pass the bill as amended LC 23.0546.03001. Motion seconded by Senator Luick.

11:35 AM Roll call vote taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	Y
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	N

Motion passes 6-1-0.

Senator Larson will carry the bill.

This bill does not affect work force development.

11:54 AM Chairman Larson closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2213: Judiciary Committee (Sen. Larson, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2213 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 9, after the period insert "Any organization that receives a grant under this section shall report to the attorney general and the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of the funds received and the outcomes of its programs."

Renumber accordingly

2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2213

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
2/13/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a law enforcement resiliency grant program.

9:31 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing on SB 2213.

Members present : Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Discussion Topics:

- Law enforcement resiliency grant
- Mental health and wellness support
- Highway Patrol pilot program

9:31 AM Senator Dwyer introduced the bill, proposed an amendment, but did not make a motion, no written amendment drafted.

9:37 AM Emily Schwartz, North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force, testified verbally, no written testimony

9:40 AM Aaron Hummel, Chief of Staff North Dakota Highway Patrol, testified verbally, no written testimony

9:56 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
2/16/2023

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation to the Attorney General for a law enforcement resiliency grant program.

11:15 AM Chairman Wanzek called the meeting to order.

Senators Wanzek, Erbele, Roers, Dwyer, and Vedaa are present.

11:15 AM Senator Dwyer moved a Do Not Pass recommendation for SB 2213.
Senator Roers seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y

Motion passed. 5-0-0

11:17 AM Chairman Wanzek closed the meeting.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations
Rough Rider Room State Capitol

SB 2213
2/16/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a law enforcement resiliency grant program.

7:12 PM **Chairman Bekkedahl** opened the meeting. **Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, Mathern** are present**.**

Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

Senator Dwyer moves **DO NOT PASS**.

Senator J. Roers seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed 16-0-0.

Senator Dwyer will carry SB 2213.

7:15 PM **Chairman Bekkedahl** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr on behalf of Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2213, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2213 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

SB 2213

WARD COUNTY 1 8 8 5

Sheriff's Department

Robert Roed
Sheriff

January 19, 2023

Chairman Larson and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Jason Kraft and I am testifying in support of Senate bill 2213. Currently I am a Captain at the Ward County Sheriff's Department in Minot. I am also a combat veteran of the Army's 101st Airborne division and was in the initial ground invasion of Iraq in 2003. I spent my 19th birthday in a gunner's turret on the way to Baghdad. I have firsthand experience in telling you, that many of the effects on a person's wellbeing, from being a soldier and an officer, are similar in many ways. Yet the services provided to each are vastly different.

The same as our soldiers, we expect our officers to be tough, and they are. We expect them to be warriors, to protect us when we need them. We expect them to pursue evil, no matter where they find it. Then, when the days over, and they go home, they find it difficult to tell their spouses, their friends, and even fellow coworkers about what it is they've seen or done. We expect them to shift emotional gears on the fly.

That's because we learn how to turn our emotions off in this profession. It's a survival skill, it's also a skill that saves lives and rescues victims. Don't think about what you're doing, just do it. But where do you go when it's time to think again. Who do you turn to? All too often I'll tell you're left alone. The complexity of the burden that we expect out officers to bear is not easily understood.

So is funding a specialized officer wellness program worth it? Is this something that North Dakotans would be okay with spending their money on? What is the cost of one officers emotional well-being? That's a tough question to answer, but ironically this bill asks for an appropriation of $400,000, which is the same cost to the federal government in life insurance benefits for one service member.

Recently, a respected law enforcement officer in the Minot community tragically took their own life. The grief and acknowledgement of this Officers death in the community was overwhelmingly apparent. I drove in the procession, and I witnessed the streets lined in places with people standing outside their cars, some saluting, some with their hand over their heart and others solemn. You'd be hard pressed to find one person that day that wouldn't support this bill.

Society today understands what it is that we go through. It's difficult to count how many times I've been randomly thanked by complete strangers over the years for what it is I do. Never once in that same regard has someone randomly told me I'm overpaid, over appreciated, or have too many benefits. If this bill can affect the outcome of one officer's life, only one, it's worth it.

Thank you and with that I can answer any questions if you have any.

Jason Kraft, Captain
Ward County Sheriff's Department

Testimony in support of SB 2213
Senate Judiciary Committee
Emily Schwartz
January 23, 2023

Chairman Larson and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Emily Schwartz and act as the Director as the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force, but come to you today outside of that capacity, as a partner to law enforcement agencies that provide critical services to victims of crime across the state, and whom I seek to support.

In late 2020, a group of law enforcement agencies recognized the need to better support their staff and each other's agencies, due to sustained secondary trauma on the job and to provide peer support during critical incidents. There is a significant amount of data to support the need for services as law enforcement experience sustained exposure to fatalities, child maltreatment, suicides, sexual assaults, and domestic violence, resulting in substance abuse, increased rates of suicide, marital distress, depression and anxiety, and decreased physical wellness.

A federal grant was hosted by Cass County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the West Fargo Police Department, Ward County Sheriff's Office, Williston Police Department, and the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force. This core team launched programming to promote internal practices to support officers, train administrators on policy and procedures to address secondary trauma, provide peer-to-peer training for units responding to critical incidents, and promote and provide access to specialized therapists across the state through the Resiliency.Support.Therapy (RST) program developed in collaboration with the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC). The trauma-informed therapists DCAC contracts to

provide these services are vetted for their unique experience in therapeutic modalities to support specialized needs related to secondary trauma.

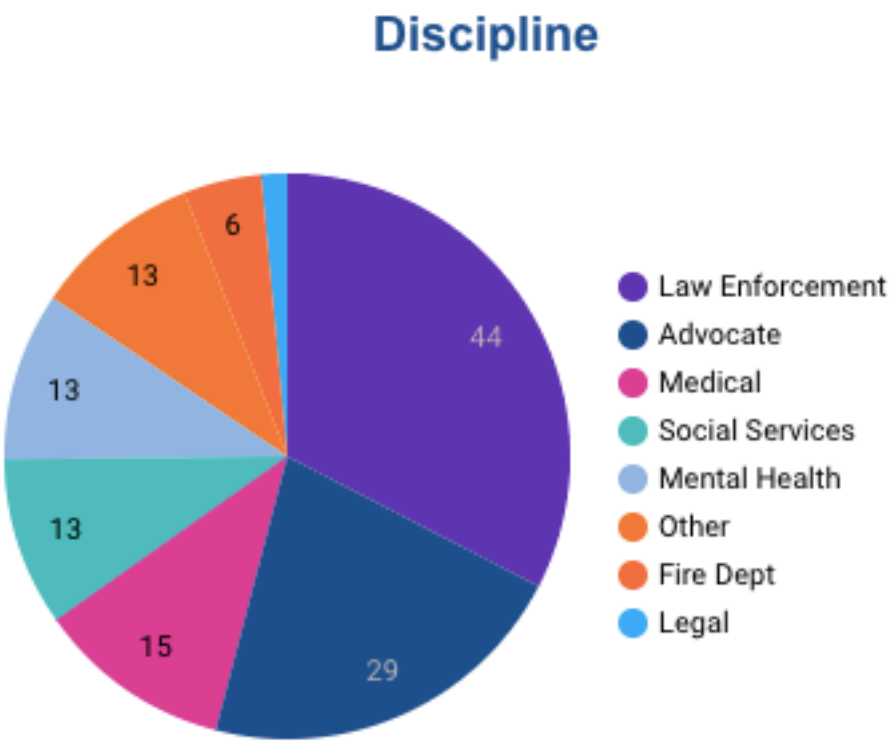
Since the RST program was promoted to law enforcement agencies in late 2020, forty-four officers have accessed services. The top presenting concerns are vicarious trauma, PTSD, and compassion fatigue. Law enforcement is now the leading discipline in accessing services through this program. The average number of sessions accessed per individual is eight sessions. This is a good indicator that staff accessing services are finding value in the therapy and continuing with sessions, as opposed to meeting just once. Please find data included below in this testimony that outlines the usage of RST programming by discipline, presenting problem, in-person vs. telehealth access, and intervention to support the client. In my opinion, one of the reasons the program has been so successful is because it is led and informed by agencies who are working in the field every day and understand the need, allowing solutions to be geared towards this unique demographic for specialized programming that is very much needed in the state.

Today, you will hear testimony from law enforcement core team partners that speaks to the need for ongoing programming to be expanded statewide. The impact of the work of this team has made a significant difference in development of critical supports to law enforcement across the state and we seek for that work to continue. There are 127 individual law enforcement agencies throughout the state that are comprised of city, county, and state jurisdictions. There are approximately 2190 licensed peace officers currently working for these agencies. In addition, there are about 300 individuals who maintain their license but do not actively work for a law enforcement agency. Correctional officers are not captured in these figures and it is imperative that they also receive support through this programming. The State's financial support is

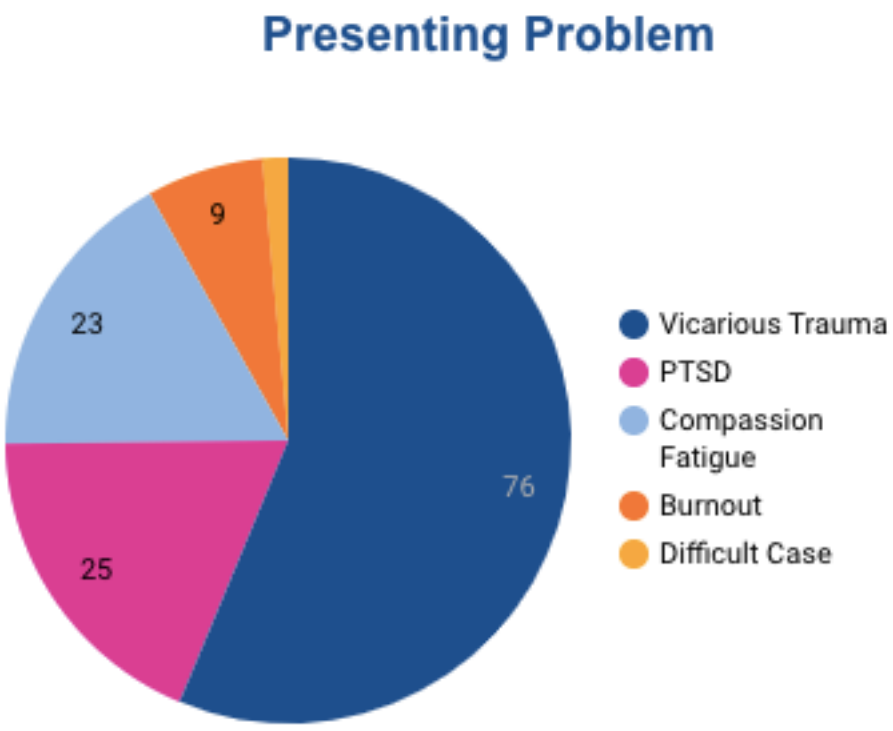
absolutely critical in continuing to build a coordinated, effective response for law enforcement officers experiencing the impact of secondary trauma in their work.

Many of us here are afforded the opportunity to live our lives knowing that help is a phone call away when we need it the most. I ask you what are we doing to support those on the other end of that call, the people who support us every day, at any hour, in any circumstance, putting their lives on the line at significant cost to their own. Is it not our obligation to honor their experience and be there for them in return? I therefore ask that you recommend a 'do pass' on SB 2213 and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

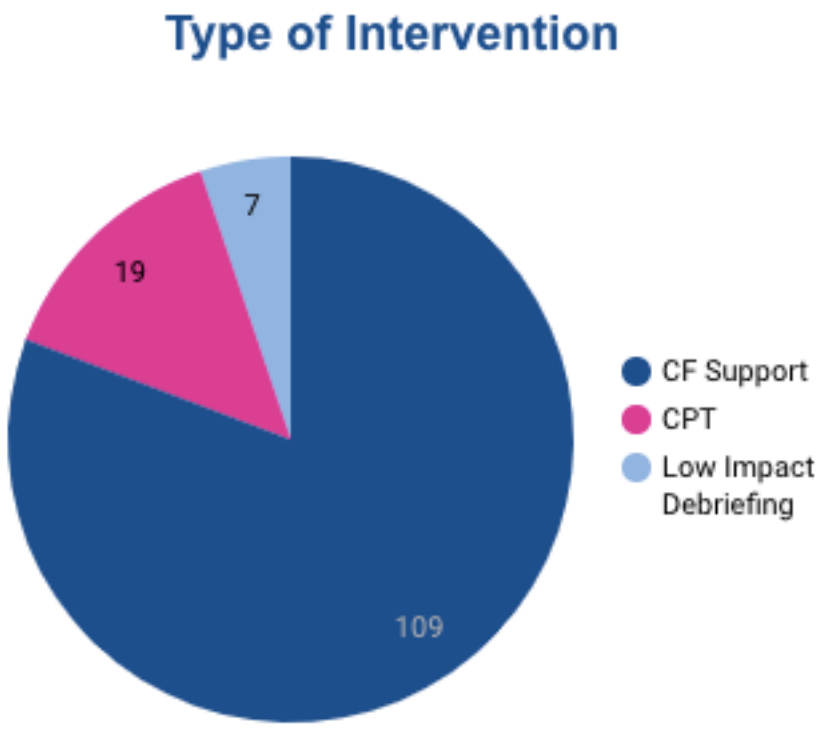
RST Usage by Discipline as of January 23, 2023



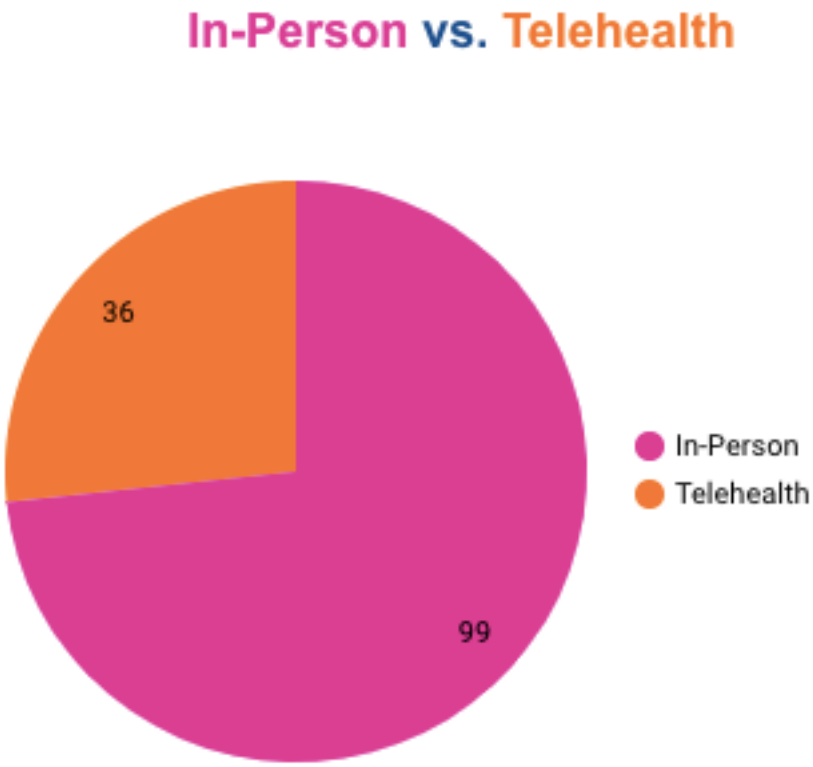
Presenting Problem for RST Therapeutic Services as of January 23, 2023



Type of intervention offered for Therapeutic Support as of January 23, 2023



In person vs. Telehealth Usage of RST Program as of January 23, 2023



CASS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

www.casscountynd.gov

Office of the Sheriff

Jesse Jahner, Sheriff

January 23, 2023

Chairman Larson and Fellow Senators,

My name is Deputy Ashley Bates and I am the head of the Peer Support team at the Cass County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). I have been with the Sheriff's Office since 2015. In my time with the CCSO, I have worked as a correctional officer, was provided field training for patrol officers, and currently help with running the Community Supervision Program out of the jail. Today, I want you hear my testimony in support of this specialized officer wellness program, as someone who has utilized services that have helped me and others I have worked with.

I want to share with you some experiences in my years of working in corrections to shed a light on the work environment and need for this programming. Over the years I have personally dealt with several incidents that were traumatic; in one week, I had an inmate cut both ankles in which I had to make tourniquets to stop the bleeding as the cell was covered in blood, an inmate medical emergency, an inmate overdose, and a co-worker experience a mental break down. The co-worker's breakdown resulted in that co-worker locking me in a pod with an inmate and telling me I was going to die that day. There is no training for the day that your co-worker, who is supposed to have your back, ends up having their own crisis and could put your life at risk as well. This situation may have been avoided by them having access to specialized resources and support to get the help they needed.

In recent years, the negative perception of law enforcement by the public and media has been something that officers have to deal with every day along with the daily stressors of their job. There has been an increase within our jail of assaults on staff, assaults between inmates, suicidal inmates and co-workers, and mental health issues with inmates that result in them throwing bodily fluid and feces at corrections officers. The daily twelve-hour long shifts of officers assigned to work with forty or more inmates in their pod make stressful situations on the job all the more difficult. CCSO patrol deputies go to domestic violence, suicide, child maltreatment, and death calls that all take a toll on our deputies. Experiencing all of that at work, along with the stress of life at home and finding that work/home balance can be difficult if we don't have the resources to help.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office has been committed to officer wellness support and has provided leadership in North Dakota to initiate work with a statewide law enforcement core team, many of whom you will hear from today. In working collaboratively with this law enforcement core team to address issues of secondary trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder,

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Cass County Jail
450 34th Street South
Fargo, North Dakota 58103
Phone: 701-271-2900
Fax: 701-271-2967

CASS COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
www.casscountynd.gov

Office of the Sheriff

Jesse Jahner, Sheriff

compassion fatigue, and similar issues, I have been able to assist peers in helping them with traumatic events and then referred them to the specialized program for law enforcement officers and corrections staff. Over the last year I personally called law enforcement agencies throughout North Dakota to see if they had peer support teams, or some form of assistance for those in need of help during difficult times. Overwhelmingly, agencies reported that they had no resources but were eager to learn more, and offer these resources in their own agencies.

Traditional Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) offered to law enforcement through their agencies don't seem to work well for first responders. EAPs may be effective for those that are not in high-risk environments or who witness and live with trauma as a part of their regular job duties, but have not been effective for me or other law enforcement I've spoken with. I personally tried accessing a traditional EAP and found that the counselor I saw lacked experience for the type of help I needed; they were young and recently graduated, and were more interested in what I did in my daily job because they thought it was cool than help me than in being able to provide me with the services I needed. Additionally, there was a long wait to be scheduled and seen that did not meet needs for someone that is in high-risk need for help.

In comparison, I used a specialized therapy service called Resiliency.Support.Therapy (RST), that the law enforcement core team has been partnering on with the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, and within five days I was scheduled and speaking with someone that I felt was capable of listening and helping me. As the Peer Support team leader, and an advocate for RST, it has been my passion to make sure that all law enforcement officers and corrections staff have the resources within their departments to ensure traumatic incidents can be addressed quickly and by professionals who uniquely understand our needs. It is my hope that by supporting this bill you will ensure that we don't lose any more law enforcement to mental breakdowns and suicide.

Thank you,

Ashley Bates, Deputy
Cass County Sheriff's Office

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Fax: 701-271-2967

Testimony
of
Dr. Stephan Podrygula
in favor of
SB No. 2213

Senate Judiciary Committee
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Chairman Larson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Stephan Podrygula and I am a clinical and forensic psychologist from Minot, who wishes to ask for your support of Senate Bill 2213, which would appropriate funds to the Attorney General "for the purpose of providing a law enforcement resiliency program grant".

For the past 45 years, I have worked with law enforcement officers, performing a variety of duties, including the following: therapy and counseling; pre-employment psychological screening; fitness for duty evaluations; training; and consultation. I am an approved psychological provider for the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board, have taught criminal justice students at Minot State University, and have received specialty training in the area of public safety psychology.

Although police work can be very rewarding, it is obviously stressful, with a significant impact on both officers and their families. Burnout, depression, substance abuse, and vicarious traumatization (where an officer becomes traumatized by repeated exposure to very upsetting situations experienced by others) are not uncommon. Their relations with friends and family members can be upset: for example, several years ago, in a conversation with the chief psychologist for the Atlanta Police Department, he told me that a large portion – over 90%, if memory serves me right – of his married officers ended up divorced within five years.

Suicide is perhaps the ultimate risk. In 2021, for example, of 632 officer deaths nationally, nearly ¼ were due to suicide; if one excluded Covid-related deaths, fully 49% of officers died from suicide. In 2017, 140 officers committed suicide, as opposed to 129 other line of duty deaths. Stress strikes home, too: last month, Minot Master Police Officer Patrick Blanchard took his own life; several years ago, a deputy US marshal, who I knew quite well, also committed suicide.

In addition to being a clinical psychologist, I've also had the privilege of serving as a Minot Alderman for 15 of the past 25 years. This has given me a deep understanding of the importance of supporting our law enforcement officers and providing them the tools they need to stay safe and do their jobs effectively.

Thinking clearly, managing emotions (such as the "fight-or-flight response"), maintaining optimism, and nurturing strong relationships with others, are some basic resiliency skills. They can be successfully taught and research shows that they really make a difference.

All of my education, experience, and training tells me that enhancing resiliency – the ability to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties – is probably the best way to help our first responders. By and

large, they are optimistic, tough, and hard-working to begin with, so helping them learn more effective coping skills just builds on their natural strengths and underlying personality characteristics.

Interestingly, helping build resiliency skills fits in very well with what both psychologists and law enforcement professionals currently identify as “best practices”. For example, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the US Justice Department have developed a formal Law Enforcement Resilience Training Program, in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania, which offers a variety of training resources, particularly a three-day long on site program to increase resilience. Based on strong scientific evidence, the skills that officers learn can prevent and decrease anxiety and depression, and increase optimism and well-being, improving their mental health and probably even their physical health.

The City of Minot is currently actively exploring a variety of steps to improve the mental health and functioning of our first responders, and could definitely use financial assistance in program development and implementation. I’m sure that other public safety agencies in the State could benefit from such support.

I note this Bill authorizes funds to be granted “to a local children’s advocacy center” to implement a resiliency program. Since I was not involved in the efforts to create this legislation, I don’t know why this particular type of organization was chosen as the grant recipient. Please understand that I’m quite familiar with the work of children’s advocacy centers, hold them in high regard, and even served on the advisory board of our local facility. However, I’m not sure how good a fit this is for their primary mission (of advocating for children). To me, the Attorney General’s Office, the state Law Enforcement Training Academy, or even a college-based criminal justice training program (such as Minot State or Lake Region’s Peace Officer Training Program) might be a better match.

In conclusion, I would strongly encourage you to provide funding for law enforcement resiliency grant program. We owe it to our peace officers to give them the best equipment and training to do their challenging jobs. To me, improving their resiliency skills is the best way to go.

SP/d

WARD COUNTY 1885

Sheriff's Department

Robert Roed
Sheriff

January 23rd, 2023

Chairman Larson and members of the committee,

Hello, my name is Taylor Schiller and I am testifying in support of Senate bill 2213. I am a detective with the Ward County Sheriff's Department and currently a member of the North Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

In 2012, I started my career in law enforcement. Most of the work I did back then was patrol work. This would include writing minor traffic tickets, responding to medical calls, domestic violence calls, minor traffic crashes, fatal traffic crashes, suicides, child abuse calls and so on.

On patrol, I always wondered when "the worst call" would come. The call that would stick with me, where I couldn't deal with the stresses on my own and needed to reach out for help.

In 2020, I was assigned as a detective for the Ward County Sheriff's Department. While working as a detective, I was assigned a child exploitation case. I listened to the victims discuss the horrific things they went through. I put my detective hat on and did what any other officer would do and ultimately arrested the suspect. "I was fine".

Several months passed and I reviewed the case at our local children's advocacy center, as we did with any case. This one was different. No longer could I listen to the details of the case without crying (and I'm not a crier). I found "my worst call". I dealt with "the call" my own way, by confiding in my support system. If I didn't have that support system or felt comfortable enough to talk, where would I have gone? Having someone to talk to that can relate to the stresses of working in law enforcement, like a peer support team or a trained counselor, is crucial.

I have seen several friends in law enforcement suffer from substance abuse, financial issues, marital problems and diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their law enforcement experiences. Unfortunately, a colleague of mine took his own life in late December. This shocked my law enforcement family, not only because we lost one of our own but because it's a reminder that we aren't invincible, as much as some of us think we are. Thank you.

Taylor Schiller, Detective
Ward County Sheriff's Department

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2213

On page 1, line 9, insert immediately after the period "Any organization that receives a grant under this section shall report to the attorney general and the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of the funds received and the outcomes of its programs."

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - ATTORNEY GENERAL - LAW ENFORCEMENT RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the attorney general for the purpose of providing a law enforcement resiliency program grant to a local children's advocacy center, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. Any organization that receives a grant under this section shall report to the attorney general and the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of the funds received and the outcomes of its programs. Funding provided under this Act must be used to defray administrative, therapeutic, training, and outreach-related costs of providing mental health and wellness support services to current and retired correctional and law enforcement personnel. The attorney general shall establish guidelines to award funding under this section.