

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2349

2005 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2349

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 3, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		0 - End
1		X	0 - 1062
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Shirley Borg</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Cook called the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee to order. Roll call vote 5 members present and 1 member absent.

Chairman Cook opened the hearing on SB 2349 which is a bill for an act to provide for an office of faith-based initiatives and an advisory commission on faith-based initiatives.

Senator Tim Mathern, District 11, Fargo, ND introduced SB 2349 (See attachment #1)

Chairman Cook: You referred to churches throughout this. Do you see this faith-based initiative limited to only churches or does it include other service clubs?

Senator Mathern: It would include all of them. I see churches as being the most prevalent nonprofit organization in our state. I see a lot of potential in those organizations being in the lead. However, this would be available to any community group, any nonprofit organization including service clubs.

Chairman Cook: When you talk about resources available would some of these resource come from grants? Do you see this commission applying for these grants or would the individual church or service club apply.

Senator Matern: This commission would help individual groups, churches and service clubs make the application themselves. I don't see this commission as going after these grants but they might providing some resources to do the administrative work.

Senator Triplett: Do you see any benefit from this proposal to the existing faith-based initiatives that are already well established in North Dakota or is this more for new groups?

Senator Mathern: I think there is more information available to the existing groups but they would not benefit as much. This bill brings in another layer or more grass roots layer of potential nonprofit organizations into this process.

Senator Erbele, District 28, appeared in support of SB 2349. Faith-based initiatives has been something he has been looking at for a long time. He is excited about the possibility of what this bill presents to the state of North Dakota. We have growing populations in our prisons and in ours social service department. I think our human service budget is larger than what our entire state budget was twenty years ago, so there are definite needs in our communities. The frustration that we deal with as law makers is that we create laws but the effect of those laws is only to suppress the behavior or coerce people in behaving in a certain way but it doesn't really deal with why they have behaved in a certain way. They need a change in their heart and mind to behave differently. I hope this can draw the various resources together to make this work.

Senator Erbele handed out amendments to the bill and explained them. (See attachment #2)

Representative Lee Kaldor, District 20, Represent all of Trail County, parts of Cass, Steel and Barnes County testified in support of SB 2349. Some things that have happened over the past couple of year with the greater discussion of the faith-based initiatives has been very encouraging. The parish that Senator Kaldor belongs to is a six point Lutheran parish with four little rural churches and two city churches in the town of Portland. These churches have created a much stronger participation in the community in terms of reaching out to the people in the community who need help who may be falling through the cracks. One of the programs that they have in their parish is called the Angel Fund. They actually purchase properties and rehabilitate them and make them available to people who are having trouble affording portable housing or are looking to own their own home but can't get through all the hoops that they need to go through to make that possible. It is having a positive impact. I think it is important that the governors office have this particular department to deal with the policies and objectives and helping the faith-based groups to make good decisions to where they can help the best. He thinks this is a great idea.

Representative James Kerzman, District 31, Mott, ND appeared in support of SB 2349. He feels there should be something out there that if a person gets into a position or crisis has some place to go to point them in the right direction. Senator Kerzman had a son who went through drug healing a couple of years ago. One of the things that is very vital is to recognize the supreme power. For the programs to work, it has to get down in the soul and incorporate the faith.

Duane Houdek, Legal Council for Governor Hoeven (See attachment # 3)

Chairman Cook: This reminds me of the last session when we dealt with the opportunity to offer financial help for people looking for prescription drugs. I think we put all the programs and put them under the insurance commissioner. Is this bill similar to what we did there?

Duane Houdek: In many ways I think it is. As I understand this, it is not to create a government agency that directly provides any services at all. It is to where it is appropriate enable those community minded organizations and faith-based organizations to come together to provide a repository of resources for people and allow them to allow the services that in many ways they are already doing.

Senator Gary Lee: Is the connection between the state and the faith-based community essential to tap into some of those grants that are available. At the federal level in particular?

Duane Houdek: I think one of the main purposes is to facilitate that. There are some grants in which this type of organization is a requisite in getting the private or federal funding.

Senator Triplett: I have questions on the whole separation of church and state issue. As a county commissioner in Grand Forks County, we have had a long standing relationship with Lutheran Social Services whereas the county contracts with them to provide our attendant care for juveniles because we didn't have the facilities. In that case they serve anyone that comes before them. They do it without religion. It is a service that they provide. My concern is if we start involving many small organizations like the individual churches, will this commission make sure that they all understand that if involved they will not press their own particular faith unto people and they are going to have to be giving out service without regard to an individuals faith?

Duane Houdek: Yes. This would be one very important function of this office to make sure that it is followed.

Gary Mudder, Staff person with Prison Fellowship Ministries, testified in support of SB 2349.

Mr. Mudder works specifically with a program called Interchange Freedom Initiatives. This is a good example of what a bill like this could do. The Interchange Freedom Initiatives program is a religious program operating with their prison but they are supporting themselves. The state is not paying for all the cost of that. It requires cooperation. Volunteers is the back bone of the work that we do. An example of the results that can be obtained (Reports- see attachment #4) An independent study of first programs in Texas confirmed that the national average for receding is sixty seven percent. Men who completed our program had a receding rate of eight percent which is a very significant decrease and this also affects tax dollars in a very big way. We have proven that the system works. There are three specific things that really make it work; number one, is we believe and we approach working with men in prison with the fact that we can run all the programs that we want but until we change a persons heart the programs are relatively ineffective. We are quite frankly honest about the fact that we believe Jesus Christ is the answer to changing a persons heart because if we change the heart, the behaviors and the attitudes follow. Number two, is once you change the heart, what are you going to do with the changed heart? An intensive eighteen month program is the next step. It is volunteer and thirty percent of the men who volunteer for it drop out because it is too intensive for them. Now they have to deal with their actions. Number three, the community is vital. We can do a lot in the prison system and treatment programs but when a man hits the street that is when things fall apart. The community has to engage with these programs and help these men or they will go back. We work with these men for one full year after they hit the street and that is where the success comes

in. That requires a tremendous amount of community support. A bill such as this will help the community in the state coordinate.

Christopher T. Dodson, Executive Director, North Dakota Catholic Conference testified in support of SB 2349. (See attachment # 5)

D'Joyce Kitson testified in support of SB 2347. She is Native American, a person with mild traumatic head injuries, also a person who was part of the system, in and out of treatment and a mother of five children. (she passed out information on head injury (See attachment # 6) She is very successful with her hands but because of injury can not organize herself. She helps native american people coming out of prison and this area is not being addressed. People need to be educated. She is a faith-based organization and feels having a bill like this would really help her continue her work. She needs more volunteers. If this is organized she thinks there should be representation of people of color and someone who understands mild to moderate head injuries.

Ronald Toewe, Teen Challenge, appeared in support of SB 2349. Teen Challenge has an eighty six percent success rate over forty some years. (See attachment #7 information for committee)
Testimony opposed to SB 2349.

Carol Two Eagles, stood before the committee as a Sun Dancer, therefore a Pipe Carrier in opposition of SB 2349. (See attachment # 8)

Senator Triplett: You appeared to be reading your testimony but didn't pass anything out. Could we get a copy. I would like it to be part of the records.

Carol Two Eagles: Yes, I will get you a copy.

No further testimony for or against the bill.

Chairman Cook closed the hearing on SB 2349.

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 4, 2005 (Discussion)

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2		X	199- 3109

Committee Clerk Signature *Shirley Borg*

Minutes:

Chairman Cook opened the discussion on SB 2349. Five members present one absent.

Chairman Cook: We were offered some amendments that took out the director which lowered the fiscal note. As I listened to the testimony I heard a few sources of revenue. One is tax dollars collected by the federal government that are available. The other is the resources out there for grants. Are we talking about both of the sources of money or just one.

Senator Triplett: I think they were talking about both sources.

Senator Gary Lee: I understand the same, both sources of money. In talking with the prime sponsor he doesn't see this group having the check book, they would just be the resource in helping the interested people apply for this money and that would be where the money went. It would just be the information source.

Senator Triplett: Section 2, Sub Section 1, clearly says that it would be both sources.

Chairman Cook: Despite what the bill says, do you think everybody that testified and spoke to how this bill would work are understanding that. I got the feeling that some looked at it as they were actually going to handle money and make decisions themselves as to who might get that money.

Senator Triplett: I did hear one witness saying that a fairly significant and maybe the majority of federal funds in the faith-based initiatives coming out of congress require pass through to state, so there would have to be some mechanism in the same way that human services gets there funds.

Chairman Cook: I think Christopher Dodson may have the understanding that the money would come to them and they would make the decisions as to how the money would be spent. I don't see them making any decisions as to who would get money, they would just point people in the right direction. I may be wrong. As far as the federal dollars that are available, I don't see this commission even going after or having access for any of them. I think we need to clarify this. Those dollars that are out there right now are available for various state agencies that we have, number one, human services.

Chairman Cook: Anyone have any concerns with the amount of the fiscal note left in this bill? It started out at \$221, 330 and I think it is cut down to about half.

Senator Dever: Someone in the room said it should be less than \$50,000.

Senator Gary Lee: If they are not hiring any staff at all and are just paying for traveling and cut down the members it should be less than thirteen thousand. I think volunteers would be a good deal.

Chairman Cook: If we are going to pass this bill out with the fiscal note on it, it will have to be done today.

Further discussion (Tape 2, Side A, Meter # 804 - 1189)

Senator Dever moved Amendments Number 50283.0202.

Senator Gary Lee seconded the motion.

Chairman Cook: These amendments reduce the size of the commission and remove the director and reduce the fiscal note by \$188,000 dollars.

Roll call vote: 5 Yes 0 No and 1 absent and not voting.

Senator Triplett: moved a motion to add in Section 3, Line 17 after the word governor, insert a comma and add the word "one of whom must be a member of a minority population". Also change the word faction to party on line 15 and on line 16 the word faction be changed to party

Senator Gary Lee seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: 5 Yes 0 No 1 Absent and not voting.

Chairman Cook we now have before us SB 2349 which has been amended twice. Any thoughts on the compensation. I would remove line 28 where it starts, "The public members of the advisory commission" to the end of the bill.

Senator Dever: Would that remove all compensation and mileage and expenses?

Chairman Cook: Yes, they could find a grant that would provide funding for expenses.

Senator Hacker: With my job I work with a lot of grants and they cover expenses and are very specific as to what they cover.

Senator Triplett: My position is if we are going to ask people to do work of this sort and come from around the state, we are obliged to pay them at the very least mileage and expenses. The compensation is always arguable. I feel if we are going to pass the bill we have an obligation to pay the expenses and mileage.

Senator Dever motioned an amendment to remove “public” and eliminate “who are not state employees are entitled to be compensated at a rate of seventy-five dollars per day and” and remove the last sentence “A state official or employee who is a member of the commission must receive that employee’s regular salary and is entitled to mileage and expenses, to be paid by the employing agency.”

Senator Gary Lee seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: 5 Yes 0 No 1 Absent and not voting.

Senator Dever moved Do Pass as amended.

Senator Gary Lee seconded the motion.

Chairman Cook we have before us SB 2349 amended three times.

Senator Dever moved a Do Pass as three times amended.

Seconded by **Senator Gary Lee**

Senator Triplett: To the extent that this bill authorizes people to call the governors office and get a referral which I think is kind of a big piece of this. Of course the governor’s office should be available to help people to sort their way through the maze of state agencies. At the same time it would not require legislation, that function is there and doesn’t require an advisory board. To the extent that this group is going to do something more or different than that is not doing anything that I would want it to be doing so I intend to go against this.

Page 5

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2349

Hearing Date February 4, 2005

Senator Dever: As I listened to the testimony I think it confirmed what faith-based initiatives work and I think it is a good idea for us to promote and support.

Continued discussion Tape 2 Side B Meter # 3109

The motion for the Do Pass as amended and the second to that motion were withdrawn for further discussion on the bill We have before us SB 2349 which we will take action on next Thursday. Committee Adjourned.

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 10, 2005 (Action)

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	4396 - 5321
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Shirley Long</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Cook called the committee to order for action on SB 2349. All committee members (6) present.

Chairman Cook this bill has been amended three times. You have the amendments 0202 presented by Senator Erbele that basically removed the director from the bill and added the words and community.

We amended it to add a member of the minority and then we amended it to remove any forms of compensation.

We would have an office of faith-based initiatives; we have a definition of what their functions are; we have in section three, it talks about the make up of the advisory commission which would be under the governors office. I want to ask two questions: there was talk when we had the hearing of available grants: there was talk about budgeted dollars for faith-based initiatives in

the federal budget. In this bill the way it is now, do you see any dollars from the federal government coming through this commission?

Senator Triplett: One of my questions for Yvonne Smith in Human Services was based on a comment someone made that if we did not have an office like this that we may not be eligible for federal faith-based initiatives money. She said no, she discussed it with several other people in public human services and she says all that the grant money that is available from the federal government would go through the state agencies in the regular route and whether we have an office like this or whether we don't makes no difference.

Senator Dever: I would like to say that my feeling is that this bill be a tool to encourage and facilitate and not an avenue for funding.

Chairman Cook asked the committee if they wanted to take action. We have before us SB 2349 that has been amended three times.

Senator Dever moved a Do Pass as Amended Three Times.

Senator Fairfield seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: 6 Yes 0 No 0 Absent

Carrier: Senator Cook.

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 02/15/2005

REVISION

Amendment to: Engrossed
 SB 2349

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

No fiscal impact.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Name:	Sandy Paulson	Agency:	OMB
Phone Number:	328-2148	Date Prepared:	02/15/2005

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 02/15/2005

Amendment to: Engrossed
 SB 2349

1A. **State fiscal effect:** Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$60,234	\$0	\$64,000	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$60,234	\$0	\$64,000	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. **Narrative:** Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:

A. **Revenues:** Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.

B. **Expenditures:** Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.

The fiscal note includes \$13,000 for committee member travel and honorarium, \$41,234 for salary and fringe of a program director and administrative staff, and \$5,000 of operating and office costs associated with the program.

C. **Appropriations:** Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.

The appropriation of \$60,234 of general fund dollars is the same as the expenditures defined in "B" above.

Name:	Sandy Paulson	Agency:	OMB
Phone Number:	328-2148	Date Prepared:	02/15/2005

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 01/24/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2349

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$221,330	\$0	\$230,000	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$221,330	\$0	\$230,000	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The fiscal note includes \$13,000 for committee member travel and honorarium, \$188,000 for salary and fringe of a program director and administrative staff, and \$20,330 of operating and office costs associated with the program.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

The fiscal note includes \$13,000 for committee member travel and honorarium, \$188,000 for salary and fringe of a program director and administrative staff, and \$20,330 of operating and office costs associated with the program.

Name:	Sandy Paulson	Agency:	OMB
Phone Number:	328-2148	Date Prepared:	01/27/2005

February 1, 2005

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2349

Page 1, line 1, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 2, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 4, remove "Director"

Page 1, line 5, remove "appointment" and after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 6, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 8, after "faith-based" insert "and community" and replace "appoint" with "designate a member of the governor's staff to serve as"

Page 1, line 9, remove "a", after "faith-based" insert "and community", remove "who serves at the pleasure of the governor", and after "the" insert "governor may designate other members of the governor's staff to assist the director."

Page 1, remove lines 10 and 11

Page 1, line 12, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 14, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 19, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 21, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 1, line 23, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 2, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 7, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 9, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 10, replace "eleven" with "seven"

Page 2, line 11, remove "the labor commissioner or the"

Page 2, line 12, remove "commissioner's designee; the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;"

Page 2, line 13, replace "three" with "two"

Page 2, line 14, replace "two" with "one"

Page 2, line 16, replace "four" with "three"

Page 2, line 19, replace the second "two" with "one"

Page 2, line 20, replace "terms" with "a term"

Page 2, line 24, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 25, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 27, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-4-05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2349

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Amendment # Senator Erbele 10202

Motion Made By Senator Dever Seconded By Senator Gary Lee

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dwight Cook, Chairman	X				
Senator Nicholas P. Hacker, VC	X				
Senator Dick Dever	X				
Senator Gary A. Lee	X				
Senator April Fairfield	A				
Senator Constance Triplett	X				

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 2-4-05
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Amendment

Motion Made By Senator Triplett Seconded By Senator Gary Lee

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dwight Cook, Chairman	X				
Senator Nicholas P. Hacker, VC	X				
Senator Dick Dever	X				
Senator Gary A. Lee	X				
Senator April Fairfield					
Senator Constance Triplett	X				

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 2-4-05
Roll Call Vote #: # 3

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Amendment

Motion Made By Senator Dever Seconded By Senator Gary Lee

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dwight Cook, Chairman	X				
Senator Nicholas P. Hacker, VC	X				
Senator Dick Dever	X				
Senator Gary A. Lee	X				
Senator April Fairfield	Absent				
Senator Constance Triplett	X				

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

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

February 10, 2005

JB
2-10-05
1 of 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2349

- Page 1, line 1, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 2, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 4, remove "- Director"
- Page 1, line 5, remove "appointment" and after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 6, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 8, after "faith-based" insert "and community" and replace "appoint" with "designate a member of the governor's staff to serve as"
- Page 1, line 9, remove "a", after "faith-based" insert "and community", remove "who serves at the pleasure of the governor", and after "The" insert "governor may designate other members of the governor's staff to assist the director."
- Page 1, remove lines 10 and 11
- Page 1, line 12, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 14, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 19, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 21, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 23, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

- Page 2, line 2, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 2, line 7, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 2, line 9, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 2, line 10, replace "eleven" with "seven"
- Page 2, line 11, remove "the labor commissioner or the"
- Page 2, line 12, remove "commissioner's designee; the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;"
- Page 2, line 13, replace "three" with "two"
- Page 2, line 14, replace "two" with "one"
- Page 2, line 16, replace "four" with "three"
- Page 2, line 17, remove ", with no more than two"

2 of 2

Page 2, line 18, remove "terms expiring in any one year"

Page 2, line 19, replace the second "two" with "one"

Page 2, line 20, replace "terms" with "a term"

Page 2, line 24, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 25, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 27, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 28, remove "public"

Page 2, line 29, remove "who are not state employees"

Page 2, line 31, remove "A state official or employee who is a member of the commission"

Page 3, remove lines 1 and 2

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-10-04
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Senator Dever Seconded By Senator Fairfield

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dwight Cook, Chairman	X				
Senator Nicholas P. Hacker, VC	X				
Senator Dick Dever	X				
Senator Gary A. Lee	X				
Senator April Fairfield	X				
Senator Constance Triplett	X				

Total Yes 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Cook

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2349: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Cook, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2349 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

- Page 1, line 1, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 2, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 4, remove "- Director"
- Page 1, line 5, remove "appointment" and after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 6, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 8, after "faith-based" insert "and community" and replace "appoint" with "designate a member of the governor's staff to serve as"
- Page 1, line 9, remove "a", after "faith-based" insert "and community", remove "who serves at the pleasure of the governor", and after "The" insert "governor may designate other members of the governor's staff to assist the director."
- Page 1, remove lines 10 and 11
- Page 1, line 12, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 14, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 19, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 21, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 1, line 23, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 2, line 2, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 2, line 7, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 2, line 9, after "faith-based" insert "and community"
- Page 2, line 10, replace "eleven" with "seven"
- Page 2, line 11, remove "the labor commissioner or the"
- Page 2, line 12, remove "commissioner's designee; the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;"
- Page 2, line 13, replace "three" with "two"
- Page 2, line 14, replace "two" with "one"
- Page 2, line 16, replace "four" with "three"
- Page 2, line 17, remove ", with no more than two"
- Page 2, line 18, remove "terms expiring in any one year"

Page 2, line 19, replace the second "two" with "one"

Page 2, line 20, replace "terms" with "a term"

Page 2, line 24, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 25, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 27, after "faith-based" insert "and community"

Page 2, line 28, remove "public"

Page 2, line 29, remove "who are not state employees"

Page 2, line 31, remove "A state official or employee who is a member of the commission"

Page 3, remove lines 1 and 2

Renumber accordingly

2005 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2349

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 11, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	x		9.6 to end
2		x	0.1 to 29.8
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Lauren R. Zide</i>			

Minutes: **Rep. Devlin, Chairman** opened the hearing on SB 2349, a bill for an Act to provide for an office of faith-based and community initiatives and advisory commission on faith-based and community initiatives.

Rep. Kaldor representing District 20 and a sponsor of the bill spoke to explaining the bill and to express his support. The bill is to create an advisory commission on community and faith based initiatives -- as the bill was originally form it was going to create a director under the Governor's office. But the way section of the bill now is the Office of faith based and community initiatives as established within the Governor's office. The Office of Faith Based Initiatives has lead responsibility to establish policies and priorities and objectives for the state's comprehensive effort enlist, enable and empower and expand the work of community organizations to the extent as permitted by law. What we are looking for here -- my intent at least in participating in this legislation is to create a vehicle or a way for the State of North Dakota the much needed services that exist out in our state -- collaborating with faith based organizations -- we are going

to be doing more and more of that -- and I am sure all of you are seeing it in other communities -- where faith-based groups coming to us with ideas -- sometimes requesting appropriations -- or funding to support their initiatives -- and while we recognize that they have an important part to play -- we also need this entity to help us to assist us to may sure that we are doing the right things -- that we are promoting the interest of citizens of the state but also are addressing the needs of organizations and people within the state. I have some limited experience with a group in our community through our parish -- they do renovations and repairs for seniors and low income people It is a very positive thing.

Rep. Ekstrom (13.2) What is the genesis of the three fiscal notes that which are now down to zero? The members of the advisory commission would get per diem wouldn't they?

Rep. Kaldor I will that to Senator Erbele to explain what the Senate did.

Sen. Mathern -- representing District 11 and prime sponsor of the bill spoke explaining more of the background for the bill, the intent of the bill and how it might function and the types of community projects which might benefit. A copy of his prepared remarks plus some hand out materials are attached.

Rep. Ekstrom (18.6) I am curious about the mechanism to be used in setting up the new commission -- the names usually come out of particular areas of interest -- how is that to works here?

Sen Mathern -- Other areas of the country have used exotic ways but in preparing this bill I was looking for the simplest way possible. We have the governor involved and I thought we should have several legislators involved -- I thought it would be good to have someone from Human

Services, and Corrections, beyond that I would hope the Governor would say -- select from areas needs and the groups representing them but still keep it as simple as possible.

Rep. Ekstrom In terms of the genesis of the fiscal notes -- how did that get to zero and about the per diem?

Sen. Mathern We have had some discussions and decided to begin with volunteers with the Board members -- if we are going to promote volunteerism out in the communities it seems that maybe it should start with volunteers on the board. But if this moves into more work then we will probably have to look at different approaches.

Rep. Koppelman (21.7) Where there is government money the strings always follows the money -- is there a danger that will happen here ? Especially with issues of separation of church and state?

Sen. Mathern It is a concern but public funds have been used to deliver faith based projects for more than ten years. In fact it started during the Clinton Administration and there are Federal Offices of Faith -based initiatives. We are ten years behind in getting the federal funds into the State. The bad news is that we left a ton of money in Washington and the good news is that a ton of legal challenges have addressed.

Sen. Erbele representing District 28 and a sponsor of the bill spoke in support of the bill. A copy of his prepared remarks is attached.

Rep. James Kerzman representing District 31 and on of the sponsors on the bill spoke in support -- he gave a personal account of his life, his low points and how people had helped him. Now through this and other means it is possible to help people in similar situations in many

communities everywhere. We need to work together and this bill provides a mechanism to coordinate the resources and people's efforts.

Mr. Houdek -- representing the Governor's Office spoke briefly saying they had supported the efforts in the Senate when they made the effort to have this as a volunteer commission in the Governor's Office. There is no money in the budget for the per diem but they would ask that the committee to consider putting some money back in for that nonetheless the bill has the support of the Office of Governor.

Christopher Dodson Executive Director for the North Dakota Catholic Conference spoke in support of the bill. A copy of his prepared remarks is attached.

Rep. Zaiser (42.4) Do you see this as sort of a microcosm of the Federal Office of the Faith-based Initiatives ?

Christopher Dodson There is a difference in the organizational charts -- in the earlier years the federal office was oriented to coordinating the federal agencies and their efforts -- but that is not the emphasis here for that office -- it would be more to assist the private sector. **Rep.**

Koppelman (44.0) I missed most of your testimony because I was off testifying on another bill but could this role not be filled by an existing state agency -- in the Department of Human Services?

Christopher Dodson -- I have not thought of all the possibilities -- but actually does make sense-- first, one of the things the Federal Office did first was to take an inventory of the government agencies to find out what all the different grants were that might be coordinated by the Office of Faith-based Initiative --most of the programs in Human Services are helping in assistance-- there are a number of programs in the Department of Agriculture, some programs in

ad nauseam coming through federal agencies through different state agencies -- so to go through the Governor's Office which is most central office.

Rep. Koppelman (46.5) We have an office in the Department of Commerce called the Office of Community Services -- I think that part of what they do is deal with these federal grants and so on -- I understand that most of that is for economic development -- couldn't that work and it is under the Governor's purview?

Christopher Dodson I do recall that is on the federal list of offices they have identified.

Rep. Koppelman (47.1) Would this bill allow that?

Christopher Dodson Yes but the bill calls for a person in the Governor's office to deal with the federal office.

Opposition testimony --

Carol Two Eagles -- (48.7) On the surface this looks good but I oppose this as history shows that programs like this have in the past been used by churches to proselytize the Indian communities and have not restored money to the United Tribes and other Indian programs. She is also the CEO and spiritual leader of a non christian church and is fearful of government interference.

End of Side A tape 2

Side B Tape 2 (continued)

Carol Two Eagles (continued) to (2.3)

Karen Hilfer she works for Community Action in Dickinson -- Region 8 -- she is not totally in opposition -- about half and half as she support some parts of the bill. Western North Dakota is different because they are not 10 years behind the times as Senator Mathern had alluded and

Western North Dakota does have a strong tradition of working together and helping one another.

We have a tradition of building collaborations -- that includes our faith based we work regularly with a minister in our ministerial association -- we have partnerships within our emergency services -- we can provide full services for everybody who comes in it requires a partnership --the Salvation Army provides a piece -- the Ministerial Association provides a piece so we do have the coordination with social services -- so we do have a tradition to uphold. The pastors are one pastor and they need to uphold their congregation and find it hard to look past that.

Rep. Koppelman (5.1) I didn't hear your neutral testimony -- it was mostly positive.

Karen Hilfer --Well I see it could be some very positive but is could be both good and bad as far our program go.

Amanda Myers -- currently a student at the University of Mary spoke in opposition to the bill.

She has been in North Dakota for two years. A copy of her prepared remarks is attached.

Her basis opposition was that she sees no need for the bill and feels faith -based is not demonstrated by past treatment of Jews and questions what the treatment of Muslims and Buddhist under this Christian based bill.

There was a variety of questions and answers exchange with Ms. Myers.

In addition to other testimony Christina Rondeau handed in written testimony for and on behalf of the North Dakota family Alliance. A copy of her handout is attached.

There being no further testimony on SB 2349, **Rep.Devlin, Chairman** closed the hearing on the bill. (20.3)

In work session , **Rep. Kaldor (21.0)** a simple amendment would be to remove portions of lines 1 and 2 on page 3 after the word 'consideration' delete the rest of it.

Rep. Maragos seconded the motion. The motion failed on a voice vote.

Rep. Koppelman observed that we should follow Mr. Houdek's advice and if they can pay the per diem but by removing this language it may prohibit them from paying per diem if they could find the money.

Rep. Kaldor withdrew his amendment. **Rep. Maragos** withdrew his second. Note: In discussion it was determined that Rep. Koppelman's statements were not an objection to the amendment.

Rep. Kaldor (23.3) accordingly his original amendment was moved again. **Rep. Maragos** again seconded the motion. The motion was too close to call on a voice vote.

On a roll call vote the amendment was defeated **6 ayes 6 nays 0 absent**. The motion failed to get a majority.

Rep. Kretschmar we could put it into the bill that the payment of per diem was subject to legislative appropriation. There was no second if it was meant to be an amendment.

Rep. Koppelman (28.3) moved a 'Do Pass' for SB 2349. **Rep. Ekstrom** seconded the motion. On a roll call vote the motion carried **10 ayes 2 nays 0 absent**.

Rep. Kaldor was designated to carry SB 2349 on the floor. **End of record (29.4)**.

Date: March 11, 2005
 Roll Call Vote:

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

House POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Ken moved amend p. 3 msg - second voice? ?

Motion Made By Vats & Arnold Seconded By Roll call

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Devlin, Chairman		✓	Rep. Ekstrom	✓	✓
Rep. Herbel, Vice Chairman		✓	Rep. Kaldor	✓	
Rep. Dietrich		✓	Rep. Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar		✓			
Rep. Maragos	✓				
Rep. Pietsch	✓				
Rep. Wrangham		✓			

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____ failed

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: March 11, 2005
Roll Call Vote:

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2349

House POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Koppelman Seconded By Rep. Ekstrom

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Devlin, Chairman	✓		Rep. Ekstrom	✓	
Rep. Herbel, Vice Chairman		✓	Rep. Kaldor	✓	
Rep. Dietrich	✓		Rep. Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Johnson		✓			
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Maragos	✓				
Rep. Pietsch	✓				
Rep. Wrangham	✓				

Total (Yes) 10 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Kaldor

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 14, 2005 9:17 a.m.

Module No: HR-46-4825
Carrier: Kaldor
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2349, as reengrossed: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Devlin, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (10 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Reengrossed SB 2349 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

SB 2349

SB 2349
Political Subdivisions Committee
February 3, 2005

Chairman Cook and Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Tim Mathern. I am the Senator from District 11 in Fargo and introduced SB2349. Section 1 establishes an office of faith based initiatives in the Governor's office. The functions are listed as 1 through 8 in section 2, essentially to enlist, empower, and expand the work of faith based organizations. Section 3 of the bill details the advisory committee appointed by the governor to help get the work done.

Why establish such an office? Faith based and community initiatives are important for at least three reasons.

1. Increase the number of volunteers in our communities. Government programs are not sufficient to meet the needs of our citizens. In an environment of decreased federal support this is essential. This new office with proper funding and staff, will harnesses the amazing resources available in both small communities and faith-based organizations.
2. Churches, have a customary audience, they can reach a group of people government departments have trouble reaching. Churches are good resources for disseminating information to the community.
3. Churches are generally more aware with what is going on in a community; the needs of their community are lived by the members. They can connect people's faith with social action.

An office for faith based initiatives gives the support and encouragement needed for these organizations to define their activities, put together some resources, and get to work. Examples of issues and programs are as follows, meth/alcohol addiction prevention and treatment, jails and corrections services, social services, teen pregnancy prevention, services for persons disabled and elderly, juvenile court services, housing, and park enhancement.

I am handing out some material about funding available with such activities which I just pulled of the web. Federal and foundation resources are available

which we need to take advantage of to solve problems in our state. Connecting these resources with our community volunteers will happen with more focused attention from this office.

In terms of the fiscal note, while I believe establishing an office of faith based initiatives will require an investment on our part, some decrease in the fiscal note is possible by combining this initiative with the Governor's plan to add an additional member to his staff. We can also pare down the number of committee members. There is also a question as to whether the word community should be added in more places, note in line 4 it is included, but it is not included throughout the document. Some have raised the issue as important in meeting constitutional requirements regarding church and state issues. Senator Erbele will offer an amendment to address these items. He and I, the Governor's office, and Legislative Council have worked together to arrive at these amendments.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, today we are meeting on this issue while President Bush, a major proponent of faith based initiatives visits our state. This public policy is here to stay; it was promoted by both democrat and republican candidates for president in the last three elections. The President and Congress are allocating federal resources for it and we have churches and community groups available to make a difference in increasing the quality of life in North Dakota. There are people here who will testify about specific programs.

SB 2349 sets some parameters for an office of faith based and community initiatives and establishes a committee to help get the work done. I urge a do pass recommendation for SB2349.

Thank you.
Tim Mathern



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Weekly News Resource

The e-Newsletter is a weekly publication delivered to your inbox which summarizes new additions and changes to the Roundtable's website including the latest news relating to faith-based social service issues and more.

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Jan 31, 2005

Digest of Federal Grants with Faith-Based and Community Organization Eligibility - 02/01/2005

Publisher: The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy

By: Lisa Montiel, Roundtable Research Scientist

The grant opportunities this week for community and faith-based organizations are through programs administered by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Qualified faith-based and other organizations may apply for Food Stamp Participation Grants. The grants will support projects that simplify the process of applying for the Food Stamp Program. The successful applicant will assist in improving the quality and efficiency of the procedures for determining eligibility and benefits.

The two priorities for fiscal year 2005 are fostering partnerships between state agencies that administer the Food Stamp Program and faith- and community-based organizations, and linking eligibility and application procedures of the new Prescription Drug Benefit Program with the Food Stamp Program.

A total of \$5 million will be awarded for six grants. Applications are due April 26, 2005. The program announcement is at:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/government/grants/Grant_Announcement.pdf.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Application guidance documents are now available for numerous HRSA funding opportunities. Qualified faith-based and other organizations may apply for a grant under the Health Careers Opportunity Program, which assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds enter a health or allied health professions program.

Successful applicants will conduct the following activities, and provide the following services for the target population: recruit individuals, facilitate their entry into a health professions program, provide counseling and needed services the individual needs to complete their education, provide preliminary education and health research training, disseminate financial aid information to the targeted students, and expose the student to primary care activities.

A total of \$14,373,865 will be awarded for 37 grants on an annual basis. Applications are due February 21, 2005. The guidance documents and application are at:
<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/guidanceprofessions/hrsa05098.htm>.

There are two funding opportunities this week through HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The first cooperative agreement, National Child Death Review (CDR) Policy and Resource Center, will support a project that serves as a source of technical support to states and communities. The Center will assist these groups as they develop, implement, sustain and improve their system and process of CDR. The Center will also help to refine the methodology for CDR, promote collaboration, support and maintain the web-based system for states to maintain, utilize and analyze their own CDR data, and provide support for states to report their CDR data, findings and prevention interventions.

One cooperative agreement will be awarded for \$400,000 per year for a three-year project period. Applications are due February 28, 2005. The application package is at:
<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/guidancemch/hrsa05040.htm>.

The second Maternal and Child Health funding opportunity is for a Research Network on Pregnancy-Related Care. The grant will support the establishment and maintenance of a research network that will develop new ideas for study, pilot multiple protocols, and implement full studies based on previous piloted projects. The focus of the coordinated research will be to identify more effective approaches to pregnancy related-care that will improve health services and health outcomes. The national network of women's health professionals will collaborate in the development and implementation of research designed to improve pregnancy-related care.

One cooperative agreement will be awarded for \$250,000. Letters of intent are due February 7, 2005 and applications are due March 1, 2005. The application and guidance documents can be found at:
<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/guidancemch/hrsa05082.htm>.

Qualified faith-based and other organizations are invited to apply for a Social and Behavioral Interventions to Increase Organ and Tissue Donation grant to evaluate, or implement and evaluate, promising strategies that increase organ and tissue donation. Examples of project topics include community initiatives to increase public commitment to donation, initiatives for increasing living donation, and/or hospital-based efforts to increase consent when a death has occurred.

A total of \$1.25 million will be awarded to 4-5 projects for the first year. Letters of intent are recommended and due February 18, 2005. Applications are due March 29, 2005. The application and guidance

documents are at:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/guidancespecial/hrsa05007.htm>.

National Institutes of Health

Qualified faith-based and other organizations may apply for a research grant entitled, Directed Stem Cell Differentiation for Cell-Based Therapies for Heart, Lung, and Blood, and Aging Diseases. The grant will support research projects that define the factors and mechanisms controlling the differentiation of embryonic or adult stem or progenitor cells, either in vitro or in vivo. Examples of research topics are included in the request for applications.

The amount of each award is dependent on the scope of the proposed research project. The deadline for the next cycle of funding is June 1, 2005. The request for applications is at:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-05-043.html>.

The Molecular Approaches to Diet and Pancreatic Cancer Prevention grant will support innovative pre-clinical and clinical research on the effect of dietary energy intake and bioactive food components (including alcohol) on the occurrence of pancreatic cancer development and prevention. Examples of research topics are included in the request for applications.

The amount of each award is dependent on the scope of the proposed research project. The deadline for the next cycle of funding is June 1, 2005. The request for applications is at:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-05-040.html>.

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program cooperative agreement will support a project that increases detection and treatment success of pulmonary TB patients in USAID priority countries. The successful applicant will conduct the following activities: develop and strengthen political commitment at the national and sub-national level for a specified TB control strategy (called "DOTS" or Directly Observed Therapy Short-Course); strengthen and expand the TB control strategy programs in the priority countries (strengthen management capacity, improve diagnostic capability, improve case identification, management, and treatment, increase access to quality anti-TB drugs, and improve program supervision, monitoring and evaluation); increase public and private sector participation and collaboration in the program; and strengthen and expand TB and HIV/AIDS coordinated activities.

A total of \$150 million will be awarded for a five-year project. Applications are due March 8, 2005. The request for applications is at:

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/EPSTData/AID/Synopses/93/M-OAA-GH-HSR-05-1015/RFA%26%23032%3B%26%23032%3BM-OAA-GH-HSR-05-1015.doc>.

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The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy,
Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government

SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE
SEN. DWIGHT COOK, CHAIRMAN

SB 2349

Testimony of Duane Houdek
Legal Counsel, Governor's Office
February 3, 2005

Chairman Cook, members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Duane Houdek, legal counsel for Governor Hoeven.

Provided the amendments that have been proposed are adopted, we support this initiative.

North Dakota has long been known as a community minded state, where we are always willing to help one another. It is important that we encourage private faith and community based organizations to continue that tradition.

It is also important that we do not simply create another level of government bureaucracy to do so. This bill, with the proposed amendments, strikes an appropriate balance between those two principles.

Thank you. I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

Attachment #4

passed out by Gary Mudder



Fixing a Broken System Prisons in the Balance

BreakPoint with Charles Colson

January 31, 2005

A lot has changed since Prison Fellowship first started going into prisons. The population behind bars has gone from approximately 250,000 to 2.1 million, an eight-fold increase. And it isn't only quantity; the "quality" of the men behind bars has also changed: Inmates are younger and harder, a hardness that the brutality of prison life only makes worse.

This "hardness" makes one unchanged fact about prisons and prisoners all the more frightening: the recidivism rate. Today, as in the 1970s, approximately two-thirds of all men released from prison will be rearrested for a serious crime within three years. That means that the need for Prison Fellowship is greater than it has ever been.

Earlier this month, a report by the Re-Entry Policy Council highlighted the urgency of re-thinking our efforts at rehabilitating prisoners. According to the report, "the vast majority of offenders . . . aren't receiving the help they need before their release from prison . . ."

Attorney General-designate Alberto Gonzalez acknowledged this at his confirmation hearings. He told senators that "we have an obligation to provide some kind of support structure, to provide some kind of training to people that are coming out of prison . . ."

Even it weren't, as Gonzalez said, "the right thing to do," it would still be in our self-interest. According to the report, nearly 70 percent of the 650 thousand prisoners released this year "will commit new crimes within three years." That's over 450,000 new crimes.

The combination of high cost and failure to protect public safety is why Senator Sam Brownback (R) of Kansas calls our corrections system "broken." As with welfare ten years ago, we need to "reinvent," not just tinker with, the way we do corrections.

The reinvention Brownback speaks of is on display in his home state. The *Wall Street Journal* calls a pilot project in Shawnee County, Kansas, a "possible model." This project "[identifies] inmates a year prior to release . . . focuses on where [they] will live," and helps them with both work skills and finding work. According to Roger Werholtz, Kansas's Secretary of Corrections, there's "anecdotal evidence" suggesting that the two-year-old program is already having an effect on recidivism.

If this sounds familiar to regular "BreakPoint" listeners and readers, that's because the program referred to in the *Wall Street Journal* is Prison Fellowship's InnerChange Freedom Initiative. As in Texas, Iowa, and Minnesota, the Kansas project and Christian discipleship hold out the promise of closing the revolving door at the entrances to our prisons.

What's more, the evidence for this is more than anecdotal: A 2003 University of Pennsylvania study found that recidivism for graduates of our Texas program was 8 percent, compared to 20 percent for a matched group and 67 percent nationally. What a witness for the Gospel!

We know what's needed to help fix our broken system: taking these inmates, introducing them to Christ, as we're doing in the prisons, and then discipling them when they get back out into society through the Church. This is once when Congress should put partisanship aside and not listen to the ACLU and other naysayers, but start helping the people of faith do what we do best.

MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS

MINNESOTA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
LINO LAKES

June 4, 2003

Dan Kingery
MCF-Lino Lakes
7525 4th Avenue
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Dear Mr. Kingery,

I understand that you will be making a presentation at the Warden's conference related to the Prison Fellowship Innerchange Freedom Initiative program. Feel free to use the following thoughts and comments from my perspective as warden at MCF-Lino Lakes.

IFI has been an excellent addition to programming at this institution. I had some early concerns about the needs and demands of the program, and the overall impact on other institution programming. Rather than presenting a list of issues requiring policy changes, Dan Kingery, Program Director instead asked "How can we fit into what you already do?" This low key, non-threatening style quickly won over staff who may have been skeptical or had reservations about a faith based program.

We have experienced a significant increase in volunteer activity because of this program. However this was not a major adjustment since this institution already had significant volunteer activity with our treatment and education programs, as well as religious volunteers. IFI has been willing to address occasional concerns with specific IFI volunteers who present security concerns because of rule violations or other behaviors.

IFI's approach and management style has been to resolve problems and raise questions at the lowest level possible in the organization. IFI staff work well with the living unit security staff, the unit lieutenant, the institution chaplain, and all levels of management. As warden, I was concerned that every issue and problem might immediately rise to my level for resolution. To the contrary, it is rare that I need to intervene on IFI's behalf to solve a problem.

The relationship between Prison Fellowship and the Minnesota Department of Corrections has truly become a mutually beneficial partnership. Increasing inmate involvement in IFI programming has reduced overall institution idleness. There has been a significant decrease in discipline reports among inmates who participate in IFI. I believe this relatively small group of offenders is also starting to have a positive influence on non-IFI, general population inmates.

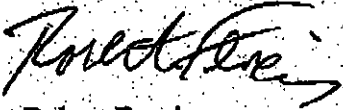
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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

In summary, the partnership between the DOC and Prison Fellowship has been very successful to date. The IFI program has grown slowly to the current level involving 60 inmates. This has allowed the institution to adjust to IFI's needs and for IFI to understand DOC's needs and policies. We have established a good foundation and I look forward to continuing this excellent relationship as the program expands in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert Feneis
Warden, MCF-Lino Lakes

A review of a chapter from *The Handbook of Forensic Psychology* (3rd Edition) entitled:

Practicing psychology in correctional settings
Paul Gendreau, Claire Goggin, and Sheila French
University of New Brunswick
Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada
Paul Smith
University of Cincinnati

The above book chapter was forwarded to psychologists at the Minnesota Department of Corrections (MN/DOC) on 11-8-04. During a staff meeting at Minnesota Correctional Facility – Lino Lakes on 11-30-04, I suggested discussing the article. My peers asked that I review the chapter, summarize its contents, and bring the information back to the group. I agreed to bring my summary to the 1-4-05 staff meeting. In writing the summary I paid special attention to: the relevance of the article given our department's guiding principles, and how the information might apply to the delivery of psychological services.

The purpose of the article was to familiarize prison psychologists with "what works" in reducing criminal behavior. What works in reducing criminal behavior was defined as programs and interventions that reduce offender re-conviction and offender misconducts, as measured by reductions in recidivism. But is reducing criminal behavior consistent with the guiding principles of our department? To help answer that question I referred to the mission, philosophy, vision and goals of our department (Appendix A). Protecting the public and cost effectiveness emerged consistently and provided what I considered a respectable standard by which to judge relevance. I considered the article relevant since: 1) Reducing criminal behavior (a premise of the article) is consistent with our department's goal to protect the public, and 2) reducing the costs of a criminal career (another premise of the article) is consistent with our department's goal of cost effectiveness. There did not appear to be any gross inconsistencies between the principles germane to the article and our department's guiding principles.

Does the information in the article apply to the delivery of psychological services at our facility? As psychologists with the Minnesota Department of Corrections we are expected to critically review psychological literature, and communicate findings and recommendations to other staff. With this in mind I reviewed the article, summarized its contents, and stated my findings and recommendations in **bold** lettering.

The philosophy that offenders should be reformed rather than punished goes back to the early 1800's (before that the whipping post and gallows were used to deter crime). The emphases on instilling hope and using reinforcement rather than punishment dominated correctional thinking until the 1970's. In 1974 Martinson published an article about prison psychology that proclaimed, "nothing works" to rehabilitate offenders and reduce offender recidivism. The study was very flawed. Nevertheless "nothing works" became an instant cliché and greatly influenced professional thinking and criminal justice policy. The "get tough" response to crime that followed was characterized by punishment and harsher sentences. Rehabilitation came to be looked at with cynicism or as "filler." Why Martinson's message was so readily accepted is still not clearly understood but probably had something to do with the social context of the times (i.e. Kent State, Vietnam, civil disobedience, etc). **This helped me understand the origin of the pessimism about treating offenders. It also helped give me perspective - positive (rehabilitative) approaches to treating criminal behavior dominated correctional thinking for over 150 years, and the current trend toward negative (punitive) approaches has dominated correctional thinking for only about 30 years.**

Years later Gendreau took another look at the prison psychology data, distinguishing between effective and ineffective programming. By this time even Martinson recanted his original proclamation by stating that some treatments work, some don't, and others make criminals worse. It was discovered that there were many problems with the therapeutic integrity of ineffective prison programs. These problems included weak conceptual bases, unqualified staff, and pessimistic attitudes about prison programming. Gendreau suspected that therapeutic integrity in the prison setting was strongly compromised by poorly trained staff, not working very hard, not adhering to the principles and techniques of the therapy they were supposedly providing, and diluting the treatment to the point where it was a name only. **An obvious first priority would be to eliminate treatments that make offenders worse. A next logical step might be to provide**

treatments that work, and avoid treatments that don't work. We can ensure effective programming by providing strong theoretical foundations, hiring qualified staff, and maintaining an optimistic attitude toward our own programming. We can ensure quality programming by getting good training, working hard, adhering to the principles and techniques of the therapy we're providing, and avoiding diluting treatments to where they're a name only.

Gendreau's study evolved into a more vigorous attempt to identify the principles of effective treatment. Meta-analysis became the research design for doing so. Meta-analysis involves a very extensive review of existing research studies, and then averaging them in such a way as to arrive at a certain summary result. Meta-analysis places special value on matched group experimental designs and replicated findings. **The present study is apparently a high quality study.**

Effective treatment *programs* are: behavioral or cognitive behavioral in design, highly structured, delivered by involved therapists with good relationship skills, and delivered in the community rather than an institutional setting. Of the cognitive behavioral designs the most effective are those that help offenders recognize the sequence of events that lead to their criminal behavior. Effective treatment reduced recidivism by 30%. **We can improve program effectiveness by: designing programs that target changes in behavior and thinking, providing interventions that build awareness of the sequence of events that lead to criminal behavior, carefully designing programs that are structured and well organized, being engaged, committed, and relating to others with respect and courtesy, developing community partnerships that support programming for offenders after their release.**

Effective treatment *interventions* are those that target criminogenic needs (i.e. antisocial attitudes, procriminal associates, impulsiveness, and poor self-control). Although commonplace in corrections, treating conditions like depression, anxiety and low self-esteem are ineffective treatments (produce little change in recidivism). High-risk offenders pose the greatest risk to the public and are considered the optimal target population. Targeting low risk offenders is not cost-effective and may even increase recidivism. Ineffective treatments (i.e. providing services to low risk offenders, non-directed and unstructured therapy, milieu therapy, inhibitive measures) increased recidivism slightly. **We can make improve our interventions by making it**

standard practice to assess our clients' needs for change in areas of antisocial attitudes and values, peer group associates, impulsiveness and self-control. We can make specific recommendations for change in these areas. We can be clear with stakeholders, and in our written reports, that treating depression, anxiety and low self-esteem will have little or no effect on criminal behavior. We can use some form of risk classification to make the best use of resources. We can use the majority of our services on high-risk offenders, and provide minimal services for low risk offenders. We can reduce or eliminate non-directive forms of therapy, unstructured forms of therapy, milieu therapy, and interventions whose purpose is to simply inhibit behavior. We can be clear with stakeholders, and in our written reports, that such forms of therapy carry a risk of increasing criminal behavior slightly.

Programs that were behavioral, that targeted criminogenic needs, and had therapeutic integrity led to significant reductions in prison misconducts. And the programs that were most effective in reducing prison misconducts were among those associated with lower recidivism. **We can design and implement group and individual treatments that are behavioral, that target antisocial attitudes and values, that are well designed and well organized.**

The meta-analysis identified principles with which to guide the development and implementation of offender treatment programs. An instrument (called the CPAI-2000) was developed for measuring therapeutic integrity, or program quality. It was used to evaluate almost 400 offender treatment programs, 70% of which have failed to achieve a passing score. Client assessment and program characteristics proved to be extremely important general domains in effective programming. Important specific domains included assessing the offender's risk factors and well-trained staff. **We can accept the reality that most prison programs are ineffective in reducing criminal behavior. We can encourage the use of empirical measures to assess our programs' effectiveness. We can design programs that include: assessment of the client's needs and risk factors, pre- and post-treatment comparisons. We can participate in training activities that help us maintain a high level of skill in prison psychology.**

Anti-rehabilitation forces prevail, and there seems to be a growing influence among policy makers who are unsympathetic to empirically-driven, best-practices policies. For example, compared with other western countries, the

U.S. has crafted distinctly punitive policies with regard to offenders and criminal behavior (i.e. "get tough on crime", "turning up the heat on probationers", etc.). Another concern is the new generation of psychologists who are no longer motivated by altruism. A study of leading clinical doctoral programs in the U.S. found that students questioned providing services who are not deserving of care and who do not pay as well as "yuppie" clientele. Research suggests that these reflect trends in American society toward rigidity, exclusion, value of money, accepting of violence, etc. Those who value diversity, generosity, and helping others are declining both in numbers and influence. Another unfortunate reality is that prison psychologists themselves have become disinterested in the effectiveness of correctional services for offenders. They have become more management-oriented and seem to care little about offender needs and the obligation to address them with effective programs. These influences have no doubt impacted offender treatment policy measurably. **We can accept the reality that there exists a limited pool of candidates with values well suited to being a prison psychologist. We can screen in internship candidates that value diversity, generosity and helping others. We can encourage these interns to pursue careers in prison psychology. We can accept the reality that many prison psychologists are pessimistic about the value of treating of the criminal population.**

On a positive note, the correctional system of Indiana is presently engaged in establishing rigorous treatment standards based on best practices. And at least one study in the UK contends that evidence-based government policies are attainable. The article recommended that concerned prison psychologists simply focus on better results. **We can establish communication and develop partnerships with prison systems that have a reputation for maintaining best practice standards. We can maintain evidence-based practices and use outcome measures to demonstrate our value in contributing to changes in criminal behavior.**

Many offenders exhibit significant increases or decreases in risk level over time, and these changes are extremely important in determining risk classification for such practical decisions as inmate assignments, transfer decisions, suitability for release, supervised release recommendations, pre-treatment assessment of criminal tendencies, post-treatment assessment of criminal tendencies, etc. Accurately assessing changes in offender risk requires getting away from variables that cannot change (i.e. criminal history), and including variables that can change (i.e. antisocial attitudes).

The LSI-R has the best predictive validity in assessing change in offender risk over time. It's both interesting and meaningful that low risk probationers who increased in risk level over time had a 30% higher recidivism rate, and high risk probationers whose risk level decreased had a 23% lower recidivism rate. **Risk classification has established importance in the criminal justice system. Risk levels of offenders do change over time, both for better and for worse. The LSI-R has excellent predictive ability in assessing change in risk level over time.**

"The hallmark of a viable correctional system must be flexibility; that is, it must incorporate case management policies which are empirically founded and evaluate the effectiveness of program interventions through ongoing tracking of outcome (i.e. recidivism), making revisions as required per newly-generated data. Failing to do so results in a system which is neither cost-effective nor serves particularly well the interests of any of its constituents: neither the kept, the keepers, or the public in general." **Prison administrators ought to be made aware of this.**

Conclusion: This article was a virtual gold mine of information for improving correctional programming. It demonstrated that psychology has a clear and rightful place in improving public safety, reducing correctional costs, and generating effective correctional policy.

Appendix A:

MN/DOC mission statement: to hold offenders accountable and offer opportunities for change while restoring justice for victims and contributing to a safer Minnesota.

MN/DOC philosophy: The Minnesota Department of Corrections is committed to the development and provision of sound, cost-effective correctional programming that protects the public, reduces the risk of reoffending, prepares offenders for productive, crime-free roles in society, and holds offenders accountable for their actions. The department is also committed to strengthening community partnerships by involving the community in the criminal justice and reintegration process, and to ensuring that accurate information, research and evaluation of programs is provided to stakeholders.

MN/DOC vision: FOCUS on reducing risk.

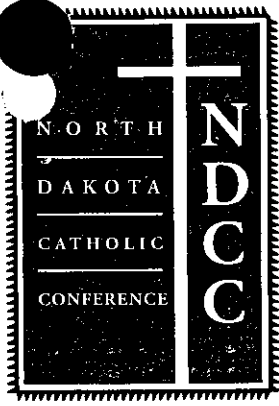
Fostering community partnerships
Optimizing best practices
Creating a respectful, diverse culture
Utilizing effective communication
Strategic and efficient use of resources

MN/DOC Mental Health Services goals:

- 1) To assure public safety and the personal safety of employees and the incarcerated offenders.
- 2) To provide appropriate and professional mental health services.
- 1) To provide an efficient and cost-effective range of mental health services within the allocated resources.
- 2) To adhere to accepted professional standards of practice and departmental policies and procedures.
- 3) To enable offenders with mental disorders to participate in normal programming.

██████████, MA, LP
Psychologist II

██████████
1-4-05



Representing the Diocese of Fargo and the Diocese of Bismarck

Christopher T. Dodson
Executive Director and
General Counsel

To: Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
From: Christopher T. Dodson, Executive Director
Subject: Senate Bill 2349 (to Provide an Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives)
Date: February 3, 2005

During his State of the Union Address last night, President George Bush stated:

Because one of the deepest values of our country is compassion, we must never turn away from any citizen who feels isolated from the opportunities of America. Our government will continue to support faith-based and community groups that bring hope to harsh places.

The President's remarks reflected a bipartisan recognition of the need to build partnerships between government and nongovernmental faith-based and community organizations to address society's challenges. Recognition of this need extends back to the Clinton administration and was embraced by all the major presidential candidates for the last three elections.

To understand why this issue has garnered such attention and support, and to shed light on why North Dakota should have an office for faith-based and community initiatives, it helps to look back some years. In 1996, President Clinton and the Republican-led Congress declared the "end of welfare as we know it." Substantial changes were made to the system, but an essential piece of the new paradigm was missing.

Over the previous three decades, an attitude developed that treated welfare and programs as the concern solely of the federal government. It was an attitude shared by those in both state and federal levels of government as well as community and church organizations. As a result, church and community groups lost some of the "know-how" needed to address community needs. At the same time, many in the federal government ignored or became even hostile to faith-based approaches to societal problems.

We have now entered a new era in our approach to welfare and other social programs. However, to make these new systems work, we must build partnerships between government agencies and community organizations.

The greatest benefit that can come from a state office for faith-based initiatives is the role it can play in rebuilding a culture where faith-based and community organizations can partner with government to address society's needs. Churches and communities still have the will to care for those in need and to address wrongs. What is needed is an office can assist them. At the same time, such an office can foster relationships between those that best

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work with people, one on one, with their problems – community and faith-based organizations -- and those that best provide the resources needed to make that work possible – government agencies.

Drawing from the questions raised earlier, two examples illustrate how such an office could work. Suppose a church saw a need for a food pantry, but was low on funds. The church could contact the office for faith-based and community initiatives that, in turn, could identify possible sources for funding and connect the church to the appropriate government agency.

Suppose, instead, the church wanted to open a soup kitchen and did not need funding. However, the church members were unsure as to whether any health and safety regulations would apply to a soup kitchen, whether the church needed permits, and what agency was responsible for such matters. The office of faith-based and community initiatives could assist the church by directing it to the appropriate agencies and sorting out what regulations might be at issue.

There exist several reasons why the state could benefit from a state office for faith-based and community initiatives, even though a federal office exists. First of all, a state office would bring this building of partnerships to the level closest to the organizations and the problems that those organizations wish to address.

Second, recent trends in federalism have shifted more discretion and responsibility to the states and this trend is likely to continue. Therefore, faith-based and community organizations need to look at the state for both federal and state resources to help with their projects. In fact, according to the federal Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives more federal money is available to faith-based and community organizations from programs administered by states and local governments than from the federal government directly. For example, in 2001, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$25 billion directly to grant applicants, but it gave \$160 billion to state and local governments, which in turn made much of the money available to nongovernmental organizations.¹

Since states have such a central role in this process, it is not surprising that twenty-two states and the District of Columbia, as well as many municipalities have created offices or liaisons for faith-based and community initiatives. Senate Bill 2349 would add North Dakota to the list of states that have seen the wisdom of having such an office.

In response to some of the questions raised regarding constitutional issues, we ask the committee to keep a few points in mind. First, when the government helps faith-based

¹ *Guidance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government*, White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives;
http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/guidance_document.pdf

A 2001 review of data from five federal departments (Justice, Housing, Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services) showed that just 13.4% of grants from those departments combined were potentially available to entities other than state and local governments. *Unlevel Playing Field*, Office of the President, August 2001.

organizations no amount of tax money goes to proselytizing, worship, or religious-based instruction. Government funds only go to constitutionally acceptable expenditures such as room and board.

Second, Senate Bill 2349 does not raise any of these issues, because it does not seek to distribute funds for faith-based initiatives. The funding comes from existing federal and state sources. To the extent there are any constitutional problems with such funding – and we do not believe there are any -- the problems are with the existing state and federal policies.²

In fact, an office for faith-based and community initiatives can help prevent constitutional problems by helping faith-based organizations understand that the funding cannot be used for proselytizing, worship, or religious-based instruction. At the same time, the office can ensure that state agencies do not ask applicant organizations to sacrifice their religious identity as a condition for receiving state assistance.

Establishing a state office for faith-based and community initiatives can provide an important step to creating a culture where government and communities can work together to bring hope to those in darkness. We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on Senate Bill 2349.

² The only possible constitutional problem with Senate Bill 2349 is rectified by Senator Erbele's amendments clarifying that the office is for both faith-based and other community initiatives.

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Traumatic brain injury: No one pathway to recovery

By [Mayo Clinic staff](#)

The brain is your body's command center. It's where billions of nerve cells come together to control your sensations, movements, thoughts and behaviors. When a physical force damages the brain, it's known as a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

TBI causes normal brain processes to be altered and threatens your quality of life. But with treatment and rehabilitation, it's possible for most people with a TBI to recover and live fulfilling lives.

A multitude of causes

TBI occurs when a sudden, physical blow to the head causes damage to the brain, changing its structure or function. In an open head injury, an object penetrates the skull and damages the brain tissue directly. In a closed head injury, brute force or fierce shaking injures the brain. Depending on the type of force that involves the head, varying injuries can result:

- Breaking of the skull (skull fracture)
- Jarring of brain within the skull
- Temporary loss of consciousness (concussion)
- Bruising of the brain (contusion)
- Stretching or tearing of nerve cells (diffuse axonal injury)
- Bleeding in the brain (hemorrhage)
- Swelling of the brain tissue (edema)
- Collection of blood causing pressure on the brain (hematoma)

Both open and closed head injuries can cause severe brain damage, resulting in the need for immediate medical attention. An unresponsive (comatose) state is a definite sign of brain injury, but there are other signs as well, including:

- Persistent confusion or delirium
- Speech or breathing difficulties
- Partial paralysis
- Seizures (convulsions)
- Severe headaches
- Sleep disturbances

Mild injuries are most common

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1.5 million cases of TBI occur each year. More than 70 percent of those injuries are considered mild.

"Mild traumatic brain injuries are the most common," says Allen Brown, M.D., medical director of Brain Rehabilitation Services at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. "These patients likely won't require hospitalization, but they can have long-term disabilities as a result of the injury."

People with mild brain injuries often experience subtle symptoms, such as headaches or problems sleeping, and can go for days or weeks without seeking treatment.



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"In less severe injuries, the patient may not connect their symptoms with the trauma," says Dr. Brown. "It may be days or weeks later before it occurs to them that their headaches or sleep disturbances might be related to the head injury. Sometimes that connection is never made."

Once an individual seeks medical attention, neurologic testing, computerized tomography (CT) scans and X-rays may be used to determine the extent of the injury. The type and severity of the injury determine the extent and nature of further medical care, which may involve just a period of observation.

Aftereffects

How people react to TBIs is dependent upon many factors, including the extent of the injury, the area of the brain that was damaged and past medical, psychological and family histories.

"Each patient brings a different set of circumstances to their injury," says Dr. Brown. "Previous injuries or diseases and a patient's overall state of health can play a role in what problems occur as a result of the injury."

Though each person's experience is different, certain problems are common among people with TBI:

- Inability to independently perform daily living tasks, such as eating, dressing and bathing
- Short- and long-term memory problems
- Confusion about past and present
- Difficulty concentrating
- Ineffective problem solving
- Difficulty showing or expressing emotions
- Problems with communication and speech
- Excessive fatigue
- Sleep disturbances
- Depression
- Headaches
- Seizures

These problems may interfere with a person's independence and ability to care for himself or herself, drive a car and return to work or school. Some problems may improve with time, but others may persist indefinitely.

- [Winning the battle against traumatic brain injury: One woman's fight for life](#)

Recovery and rehabilitation

People with TBI sometimes need surgery to help control swelling or bleeding, for removal of bone fragments, blood clots or damaged tissue, or to control pressure inside the brain (intracranial pressure):

Depending on the severity of the injury, people with TBIs may experience a variety of problems and may need different types of treatment and rehabilitation. The path to recovery is unique to each person.

"Even though we have a lot of experience managing all kinds of acquired brain problems, we can't reliably predict the outcomes, length of rehabilitation or extent of recovery very well, particularly early on," says Dr. Brown.

A team of physician specialists, neuropsychologists, therapists and nurses work together to develop a rehabilitation program suited to the individual's needs. Many people require a combination of speech, recreational, occupational, psychological and physical therapies in addition to medical and surgical treatment.

Offering support

It's often necessary to make large adjustments when someone you love

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experiences a TBI. The many roles that each person fulfills — parent, child, employee, friend — can change when a brain injury occurs. This is difficult not only for the injured person, but also for family and friends.

Dr. Brown offers these tips to help you cope with changes that may occur when someone you love experiences a TBI:

- Be supportive.
- Be patient.
- Become involved in the rehabilitation process. Ask for help and clarification when needed.
- Be realistic in your expectations for your loved one's recovery. Understand that recovery from this injury may be a lifelong process.
- Keep an open mind.
- Celebrate small accomplishments.
- Join a support group if needed.

Related Information

- [Brain pain: Recognizing a subdural hematoma](#)
- [Brain & Nervous System Center](#)

Additional Resources

- [Brain Injury Association](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Traumatic brain injury in the United States](#)

August 26, 2002

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HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST IN DEALING WITH THE HEAD INJURED

I. Avoid Frustration

Stimulation is needed but too much can be frustrating. The client is thinking in slow motion. Too many people talking at once or too much T.V. is very difficult for his/her mind to think about. If his/her senses are overloaded, they may "short circuit" and 1) "shut down" or 2) "explode", cry or become combative. If this happens, provide a quiet environment to let the client rest.

If

II. Keep conversation simple.

Communication is important to the client. Although he may not be able to speak, he/she should be kept in as normal a social environment as possible.

A. Remember the client is thinking in slow motion.

1. Speak slowly as it takes the client a long time to process what is being said and how to respond. Use short, simple sentences.
2. Give the client enough time to respond.
3. Present only one idea at a time.

B. Try to include the client in every conversation.

1. Don't talk over the client or down to them. They are adults and will become annoyed or frustrated causing withdrawal or rebellion.
2. Do not speak to the client as if they were deaf. Unless this was a pre-existing condition, generally a hearing loss does not accompany a head injury.

C. Ask simple questions.

1. Where is _____
2. Point to _____
3. Show me _____

D. Ask affirmative questions rather than negative ones. "Do you want a drink?" is better than "Don't you want a drink?"

E. Encourage the use of appropriate greetings and social exchanges.

F. Do not tease or encourage the client to respond inappropriately.

G. Allow the client to search for the word he/she wants; however, give him/her the word before they become completely frustrated or get the wrong word which is better than for him/her to practice mistakes. Clients need successes in order to continue to try. Sometimes it is better to change the subject rather than to pursue a response beyond the client's frustration tolerance.

H. Support and encourage speech efforts. For instance, if the client begins "I want to ..." it helps to repeat the phrase, since in searching for the next word, the client may have forgotten the first ones.

I. Discourage rambling, meaningless repetitions but give the client an opportunity to express themselves in a meaningful way. The client may repeat a word, phrase, or activity over and over. Avoid making an issue of this, get the client interested in another activity.

- J. Remember the client's inability to find a word to express themselves does not mean that they have lost their intelligence or knowledge.
- K. Speak to the client as would any reasoning adult.
- L. Do not, under any circumstances, put the client on display or force them to speak. Such remarks as, "say it for them," may upset or embarrass the client.
- M. Do not ridicule or insist that the client give accurate responses, correct pronunciation or "talk right." There is nothing the client wants more than to do just that.
- N. Ask direct questions requiring a simple "yes" or "no" rather than those requiring complex answers. It is better to say, "was dad here last night?" rather than, "who was here to visit last night?" You need to know the correct answer in order to help orient the client.
- O. Encourage gestures and talking with hands whenever and if possible. Tell the client to describe or show you what they mean, frequently this will enable them to say the word itself.
- P. Be prepared for bizarre, inaccurate use of language and for swearing.
 - 1. Such responses are very common to the brain injured person.
 - 2. Accept this without amusement or anger.
 - 3. Help the client by providing the correct word without display or emotion.
- Q. Don't ever-estimate the client's capability to understand what is said to them.
- R. Don't act like you understand when you don't.
- S. Don't talk for the patient unless absolutely necessary.
- T. Don't use sarcasm or abstract jokes with the client. The client is very concrete and will take everything you say literally. "I'll be back in a minute," means just that to the client - you will be back in one minute.

III. Keep in touch with the real world.

- A. When the client repeats themselves, tell them so, but talk to them in a matter of fact way.

IV. Attitudes

- A. Be generous with approval of appropriate behavior, immediate feedback and reinforcement are necessary.

IV. Attitudes (continued)

B. Don't laugh at the client.

1. Laugh with the client when it is appropriate.
2. Disregard laughter when a situation is not funny by not laughing with the client or ignoring it.
3. Often, the client is not able to know what is really humorous.

C. A client may laugh or cry easily. They may be embarrassed by their uncontrolled behavior. Suggest another activity until they calm down.

D. Remember that no client's problem is exactly like another's, so avoid making comparisons.

E. Do not argue with the client. This is exhausting to them and may increase anger and resentment.

F. By your mannerisms, patience, and attitude of acceptance; create an air of relaxation. Avoid direct expressions like "relax!"

G. Do not rely on what the clients say they can do - be sure that what they do is done safely. Check with the therapist.

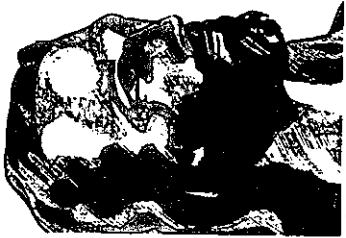
COMMON EFFECTS OF BRAIN INJURY

1. Memory impairment - short or long term.
2. Learning deficits.
3. Poor problem solving, planning and decision making skills.
4. Lack of insight into own behaviors and deficits.
5. Loss of inhibitory controls resulting in inappropriate behaviors.
6. Changes in sexuality (hyper-sexuality, impotence, inappropriate behaviors).
7. Impulsivity.
8. Low tolerance for frustration.
9. Impaired socialization skills.
10. Difficulties with concentration, short attention span and staying on task.
11. Impaired cognitive abilities - difficulty processing new information, poor reasoning.
12. Expressive and receptive communication deficits (verbal and written).

“The Jesus Factor”

Recovery begins with a change in behavior and the elimination of binding life-controlling habits. Teaching faith in Jesus Christ alters behavior and instills positive values that allow a person to holistically heal. The North Dakota Teen Challenge family believes, and results show, that an addict establishes a personal relationship with Jesus Christ if he wishes to find a permanent freedom from bondage. This central spiritual dynamic is the foundation on which all aspects of the North Dakota Teen Challenge Center program are built. NDTCC rests upon one reason for success:

“The Jesus Factor”



Drawing by Teng Vu
Teen Challenge Graduate
NDTC lay counselor and choir director

Would you like to have the North Dakota Teen Challenge Student choir sing and share testimony at your church or special event?

Call our Events Coordinator Ron Teewo to schedule this joyous occasion.

North Dakota, a small state. It has one of the biggest drug problems in the country.

Your prayers and support along with North Dakota Teen Challenge, using the Jesus factor will help to set our state free from the bondage of addiction

All of our funding comes from faithful donors. Please help give them a chance.

FREEDOM.
THE ULTIMATE GIFT.

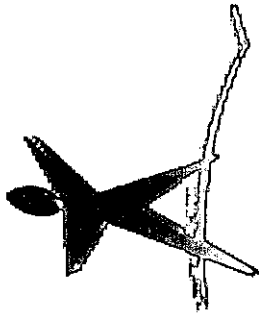
Contact:
Michael Edwards, Executive Director
North Dakota Teen Challenge
201 18th Street East, Williston, ND 58801
www.tc4hope.org
(701) 572-4God 1-866-36-4Hope

The Faith-Based Solution for the Drug Epidemic

Keep hope alive!

North Dakota Teen Challenge

Adult Center



TEEN CHALLENGE
WHERE HOPE IS BEING RESTORED
FOR THOSE HURTING

Ready for change?

**There is hope!
“in Jesus”**

www.tc4hope.org

**} 2000 years ago,
a teacher sat among
Prostitutes,
thieves,
and drunkards.**

**Who will sit
with them
today?**



Freedom.
The Ultimate Gift.

North Dakota Teen Challenge
13 month residential treatment
program with an additional 6 month
re-introductory phase

**Thank you for giving to the
Lord, I'm a life that has been**

changed



All for Jesus

Imagine a life without family, without shelter and constantly fighting the nagging ache of desperation. Addicts travel through life with the heavy chains of rejection, dejection, and suspicion. Each person who walks through the doors of the North Dakota Teen Challenge Center is tied down with a similar story of pain and hopelessness. NDTTC has a liberating story of redemption and hope.

Nationally recognized and respected, NDTTC is not just a place for help, it is a center for the future. Since 1958, Teen Challenge has founded it's programs on the teachings of Jesus to physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually unchain the lives of thousands of addicts.

Across the country, an estimated 2 million + Americans are classified with substance dependencies or abuse

NDTTC is changing the numbers, successfully one day and one life at a time.

Testimony on SB 2349

Hau Senator Cook & members of the Committee.. For the record, my name is Carol Two Eagle. I stand before you today as a Sun Dancer, therefore, a Pipe Carrier - a Traditional spiritual person of the Indigenous People of this Turtle Island - *in strong opposition to SB 2349*.

This bill is Un-Constitutional. Provision in law for an office of faith-based initiatives directly violates the U.S. Constitution's taboos on religion and the state. It violates the Doctrine of Separation of Church and State, which has been upheld continuously by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In recent times, there has come to exist a myth in this country that the U.S. is somehow a "Christian" nation. *There is no foundation anywhere in the U.S. Constitution*, which is what frames both the government of this country and the society within that governmental framework, *for this myth*. Yet, it persists. The majority of the founders of the U.S. governmental form were Masons - which is *not* a "Christian" organization. Freemasonry requires its members to espouse "a strong belief in a Supreme Being", but no other form for that espousal or belief exist. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Constitution, was a Deist. He believed in a Supreme Being, but he took a pair of scissors and cut the miracles out of the Bible, stating that they were "an insult to the modern scientific mind" - of the 1700's. The scissors & the Bible are on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution. Some 85% of the Constitution of the United States of America comes directly from the Articles of Confederation of the Haudaunosee - the Longhouse Nations sometimes called the Iroquois League. Those Indigenous Nations were definitely not Christian at that time! And, they were slaughtered not long after, by people claiming to be "Christians", for refusing to convert from their Traditional spiritual Ways. This is the history of "America", Senator Cook & members of this Committee, insofar as religious freedom and Native American Traditionalism are concerned. Other non-Christian religions have suffered similarly - & still do today.

A mere 10 years ago, in 1994, I was involved in a landmark case in which the State of South Dakota tried to put me in a mental institution for life for, among other things, "talking to God & believing He answers". (To which I replied, "Of course I do! What do you think a prayer & the answer to it are, Mr. Prosecutor? Do you think there's some spiritual bulletin board out there & we put spiritual Post-It notes on it?") You notice that I am here - the Board not only let me go, they apologized for putting me through the process, and then asked if I minded if they prayed for my continued health, safety, and success in guarding Native American Traditionalism. And of course, I encouraged them to do so. No one ever has too many people praying for those things. While I trust & hope they continue, they don't do it as officials or an any official governmental activity.

The founders of the U.S. were too wise to allow *any* religion of state, precisely because of this ongoing persecution of non-christians by people claiming to be both "christian" & defending freedom of religion. If it doesn't exist for any one group, it doesn't exist for any group at all.

If this office were to be established, would it make the same "comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, empower, & expand the work of faith-based organizations" in re Native American Traditionalism as it would for "Christian" organizations? I heartily doubt it! And my strong doubt extends to every section of this proposed law. I will continue to doubt it unless & until I see specific provisions written into law to include protection for and promotion & preservation of Native American Traditional spiritual Ways. I don't expect that to occur.

In 1997, a Senator from ND spokè against Senate passage of SB 2359, which was to define who could legally perform marriages in ND, saying in his floor speech, "I am asking you all to vote with me to put 49 crosses over this amended bill, to prove the power of the cross over all other religions, particularly Native American Traditionalism." I remember the rest of the Senate gasped at that. Blessedly, they ignored this plea, and voted 48 Yay, 1 Nay, 0 ANV & passed the bill.

When this bill came before house Judiciary for its hearing, this Senator spoke against it saying, "The government owns its people, & therefore has the right to decide what constitutes a valid religion, & to define what constitutes a valid religion, & no religion other than Christianity has any need or reason to exist." He asked House Judiciary to kill the bill.

are non-Christian way

However, I was taught by my father, fathers of my father - ever controls the money, controls the game, will All subsequent people on this Commission, up hold this law - in its entirety? Can it be overturned?

Sen. Cook gavelled me here - Discussion of Constitutional by named, I continued my testimony continuing to speak to the bill, said had been doing -

Not Read

I asked to rebut & the Chair allowed it. I told the Committee that what that Senator had described was fascism, not democracy, and showed them a pamphlet put out by the state of ND, in which the first line reads, "The form of government of North Dakota is democracy, which is government of the people, by the people, for the people." It goes on to state that equal rights for all the people of North Dakota are guaranteed by both the state & U.S. Constitutions. I asked them to disregard the Senator's testimony and give the bill a unanimous Do Pass as it had been sent from the Senate. I further asked them to recommend to the Senator that he take his local high school's night course in Government & Politics, where I had been assured he would learn the difference between the two forms. The Senator left, very angry. He has been reported to me by various Senators every Session since that he continues to "work hard" to discredit me and my testimony, and to have my Constitutional Right to be heard violated. I do not doubt that passage of this bill would give him the idea that he & people like him somehow have the right to continue to violate the Rights of Indians insofar as our various Traditional spiritual Ways are concerned - & even to expand those efforts. The fact that he is utterly wrong have not deterred him thus far - I don't expect any amendment you can make to this bill will deter him or others of views similar to his, in any way or in any microscopic degree.

Thousands of Indian People have died in order to keep our Traditional spiritual Ways alive and vital. We continue to face all manner or governmental & institutional obstacles to freedom to practice our ancient ways. Everyone carries on at length about the Jewish Holocaust, in which 8 million Jews died under Hitler's regime. Almost no one carries on about the Native American Holocaust, which has resulted in the deaths of over 25 million American Indians - and which is still going on today. Right now, as we speak.

This is no melodramatic claim - casual perusal of any Native newspaper or listen to any Native talk show will bear this out. American Indian men die at an average age of 52, from the stresses associated with ongoing efforts at assimilation & onslaught against our Traditional spiritual Ways. White males die at an average age of 74. They have no such onslaught to deal with. American Indian women die at an average age of 59; from the same onslaught, while white females die at an average age of 86. They have no such onslaught to deal with either. Our teens commit suicide at 40X the rate for white teens, & the U.S. mainstream media does not even mention it - but let 3 white teens in Pierre SD commit suicide in 1 year, & that same media screams "epidemic!".

As a Sun Dancer, also called a Pipe Carrier, I could go on with current examples for hours, but I will not unless you ask me to - either in Committee or privately.

Unless there are specific Constitutional provisions providing for preservation, promotion, and nurturing of American Indian Traditional spiritualities with no restrictions or efforts at restrictions on our Ways of any kind, I and every Traditional Person stands solidly against this bill, and on behalf of all of us, I ask you to give this bill a unanimous Do NOT Pass and kill this bill.

Thank you for hearing me in a good way now. Mitakuye oiasin. We are all related.

50283.0301
Title.0400

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Cook
February 14, 2005

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2349

Page 2, line 20, after "governor" insert ", one of whom must represent a minority population"

Renumber accordingly

50283.0401
Title.0500

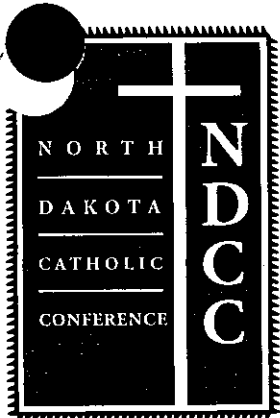
Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Cook
February 15, 2005

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2349

Page 3, line 1, remove "are entitled to be compensated at a"

Page 3, line 2, remove "rate of seventy-five dollars per day and"

Re-number accordingly



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

Christopher T. Dodson
Executive Director and
General Counsel

To: House Political Subdivisions Committee
From: Christopher T. Dodson, Executive Director
Subject: Senate Bill 2349 (to Provide an Office for Faith-Based and
Community Initiatives)
Date: March 11, 2005

In his most recent State of the Union Address, President George Bush stated:

Because one of the deepest values of our country is compassion, we must never turn away from any citizen who feels isolated from the opportunities of America. Our government will continue to support faith-based and community groups that bring hope to harsh places.

The President's remarks reflect a bipartisan support for building partnerships between government and faith-based and community organizations to address society's challenges. To understand why this issue has garnered such attention and support, and to shed light on why North Dakota should have an office for faith-based and community initiatives, it helps to look back a few years.

Over the previous three decades, an attitude developed that treated welfare and other social programs as a function solely for the federal government. As a result, church and community groups lost some of the "know-how" needed to address community needs. At the same time, many in government ignored or became even hostile to faith-based approaches to societal problems.

In 1996, President Clinton and the Republican-led Congress declared the "end of welfare as we know it." The federal and state governments made substantial changes to the system, emphasizing local efforts and encouraging self-sufficiency. Success of the new paradigm, however, often depends upon contributions by local nongovernmental entities. To make these new systems work, we must build partnerships between government agencies and community organizations.

A state office for faith-based initiatives can help rebuild this partnership. Churches and communities still have the will to care for those in need and to

address wrongs. What they need is an office to assist them. At the same time, such an office can foster relationships between those that best work with people, one on one, with their problems – community and faith-based organizations -- and those that best provide the resources needed to make that work possible – government agencies.

Two examples illustrate how such an office could work. Suppose a church saw a need for a food pantry, but was low on funds. The church could contact the office for faith-based and community initiatives that, in turn, could identify possible sources for funding and connect the church to the appropriate government agency.

Suppose, instead, the church wanted to open a soup kitchen and had the necessary funding. However, the church members were unsure as to whether any health and safety regulations would apply to a soup kitchen, whether the church needed permits, and what agency was responsible for such matters. The office of faith-based and community initiatives could assist the church by directing it to the appropriate agencies and sorting out what regulations might be at issue.

There exist several reasons why the state could benefit from its own office, even though a federal office exists. First of all, a state office would bring this building of partnerships to the level closest to the organizations and the problems that those organizations wish to address.

Second, recent trends in federalism have shifted more discretion, responsibility, and funding to the states. Therefore, faith-based and community organizations need to look to the state for both federal and state resources. In fact, according to the federal Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives more federal money is available to faith-based and community organizations from programs administered by states and local governments than from the federal government directly. For example, in 2001, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$25 billion directly to grant applicants, but it gave \$160 billion to state and local governments, which in turn made much of the money available to nongovernmental

organizations.¹ Consequently, twenty-two states and the District of Columbia, have created offices or liaisons for faith-based and community initiatives.

Some may have questions regarding constitutional issues. We ask the committee to keep a few points in mind. First, when the government helps faith-based organizations no amount of tax money goes to proselytizing, worship, or religious-based instruction. Government funds only go to constitutionally acceptable expenditures. Second, Senate Bill 2349 itself does not raise any constitutional issues, because it does not seek to distribute funds for faith-based initiatives. The funding comes from existing federal and state sources and the legal parameters already exist in rules and regulations.

In fact, an office for faith-based and community initiatives can help prevent constitutional problems by helping faith-based organizations understand what activities cannot be funded. At the same time, the office can ensure that state agencies do not ask applicant organizations to sacrifice their religious identities as a condition for receiving state assistance.

Establishing a state office for faith-based and community initiatives can provide an important step toward creating a culture where government and communities can work together to bring hope to those in darkness. We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on Senate Bill 2349.

¹ *Guidance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government*, White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. A 2001 review of data from five federal departments (Justice, Housing, Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services) showed that just 13.4% of grants from those departments combined were potentially available to entities other than state and local governments. *Unlevel Playing Field*, Office of the President, August 2001.

Chairman Devlin, Vice Chairman Herbel and Members of the Political Subdivision Committee:

My name is Amanda Myers and I am currently a student at the University of Mary. I have lived in North Dakota for two years now, and in my time have become an active member within the community. As a concerned citizen, I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 2349.

I have heard numerous reasons in support of the bill. However, these reasons are ill-suited to the problem at hand.

One justification presented through arguments is that twenty-two other states have provided for faith-based offices within their governments. This reasoning relies on the assumption that popularity designates morality. However, just because other states have done so does not make the action right. If so, Prohibition would remain today.

Another justification is that this bill benefits our local community in ways the government could not have before. This example appears most notably in arguments concerning drug rehabilitation and prison reentry. Christian groups head the most successive efforts in these areas. The idea is that a Christian office would be best equipped to handle community concerns. But this is incorrect. Christian groups should exist inside a community-based office. Though I agree an office with a focus on community concerns can benefit that community most capably, this office, if established, puts faith first and community last. Just look at the original wording of the bill.

Christian human rights efforts are laudable. I am not debating that. But the need for a faith-based office does not exist. The need for a community-based office does. There is a distinction between the two that I urge you to realize.

Let us all not be naïve enough to possibly believe that this "faith-based" office presents itself to all faiths. Will Jews be allowed to sway public policy? Will Muslims? Will Hindus or Buddhists? I think not. This is a Christian bill for Christian groups.

The inherently discriminatory practices of Senate Bill 2349 begin the first of my numerous evidences against it. As the action discriminates according to religion, it is therefore unconstitutional.

I am a strong patriot with a deep love for our country. My highest ideal, as is any patriot's, is the United States Constitution. My family migrated to the United States during World War II. My great-grandmother and my great-grandfather escaped from Poland days before

their village was decimated by the Nazis. My grandparents raised my parents with a deep respect for our freedoms, and my parents did so with me. Thus, the United States Constitution is held as the standard for American practice.

Most potently, this office is completely unnecessary. As a devout woman, I fully understand the desire for religious influence. However, as an American, I understand this can be achieved through right and ethical action. Creating a faith-based office is no such action. It is a conflict of interest, at best. Creating a community-based office, *influenced* by faith, but not ruled by it, would achieve the goals set forth by the bill creators without violating our sacred Constitution.

I have heard arguments that the church best knows the will and desire of the community. However, I disagree. The *community*, not the church, best understands its needs. This bill fights against the very morals that created this country. The bill tries to solve a dilemma the wrong way. I would be satisfied if the bill eliminated the word "faith-based" and instead focused on community initiatives. Faith exists within us all, and guides our actions. It exists within our community, and should continue to do so within a community-based office in the government.

Because the arguments in favor of Senate Bill 2349 are inadequate to solve their dilemma, and because the bill is inherently discriminatory, unnecessary, and unconstitutional, I urge the committee to exercise your responsibility to our highest form of government – the US Constitution – and vote against Senate Bill 2349.

I thank the House members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, Vice Chairman Herbel and Chairman Devlin for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2349.

I'd like to take this time to open to any questions the Representatives may have.



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Christina Kindel
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: House Political Subdivisions Committee
FROM: Christina Rondeau, North Dakota Family Alliance
RE: SB 2349
DATE: Friday, March 11, 2005

Mr. Chairman and members of the Political Subdivision Committee, my name is Christina Rondeau with the North Dakota Family Alliance. I support SB 2349, and urge this committee to give SB 2349 a DO-PASS recommendation.

SB 2349 would enable the state of North Dakota and the faith-based and community service groups of North Dakota to fully pursue the federal funds and services available to faith-based and community groups. This bill has been carefully crafted to assure no violation of the separation of church and state.

The local community and faith-based service groups in North Dakota would be greatly advantaged by the service that SB 2349 endeavors to provide. Many faith-based and community groups in smaller communities are made up of local volunteers who desire to serve, but who often find themselves lacking when it comes to funding, and more specifically, the expertise often required in looking and applying for funding sources, especially in the form of grants. SB 2349 would provide a huge and welcome service to these groups, which would then be able to better serve the members of their community.

Again, I urge a DO-PASS recommendation for SB 2349. Thank you.