



January 9, 2012

From: William Vandal,  
Chief, North Dakota State University Police Department

Dear Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee,

I do not support senate bill 2125, Uniform Electronic Record of Custodial Interrogations Act. I do understand why the legislature is considering the bill and appreciate the concern for our criminal justice system. I am the Chief of Police at North Dakota State University. I have 17 years of experience as a law enforcement officer and administrator.

When contemplating this bill I would like you to consider the following.

- Expense
  - Systems set up to record in a patrol vehicle can cost from a few, to several thousand dollars for each vehicle.
  - Systems for an interview room are more expensive.
  - Money currently allocated for necessary functions like DUI enforcement, crime prevention etc. will need to be reallocated to pay for them.
- Complication
  - Law enforcement agencies will need to establish policies and procedures for storage and maintenance of the systems themselves and the files generated. Thusly adding needless difficulty to an already complex records system.
- Lack of necessity
  - I am not aware of any recent instances of law enforcement misconduct in North Dakota which resulted in a wrongful conviction based on a contested statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information and I trust you will make the right decision for North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Vandal", written over a horizontal line.

William Vandal