

Houser Bill 1047
House Judiciary Committee
Testimony Presented by Sara Behrens
January 11, 2021

Good morning Chairman Klemin, members of the committee. My name is Sara Behrens and I am a staff attorney with the State Court Administrator's Office. I am here today in support of House Bill 1047. This bill adds a new subparagraph k to subsection 1 of section 27-20-51. Juvenile files and records are generally confidential but are open to inspection in those situations delineated in this subsection. Subparagraph k adds that the information technology department as authorized by the supreme court to use those records in the statewide longitudinal data system which was authorized in 2007. This system is explained at <https://www.slds.nd.gov/> and essentially, as I understand it, allows the gathering of data to use in research of outcomes of North Dakota education and workforce training programs. No personally-identifiable data will be made public by adding this subparagraph. The goal is to address how well those programs are preparing students for further education and the workforce. Thank you for your consideration and we urge a do pass.