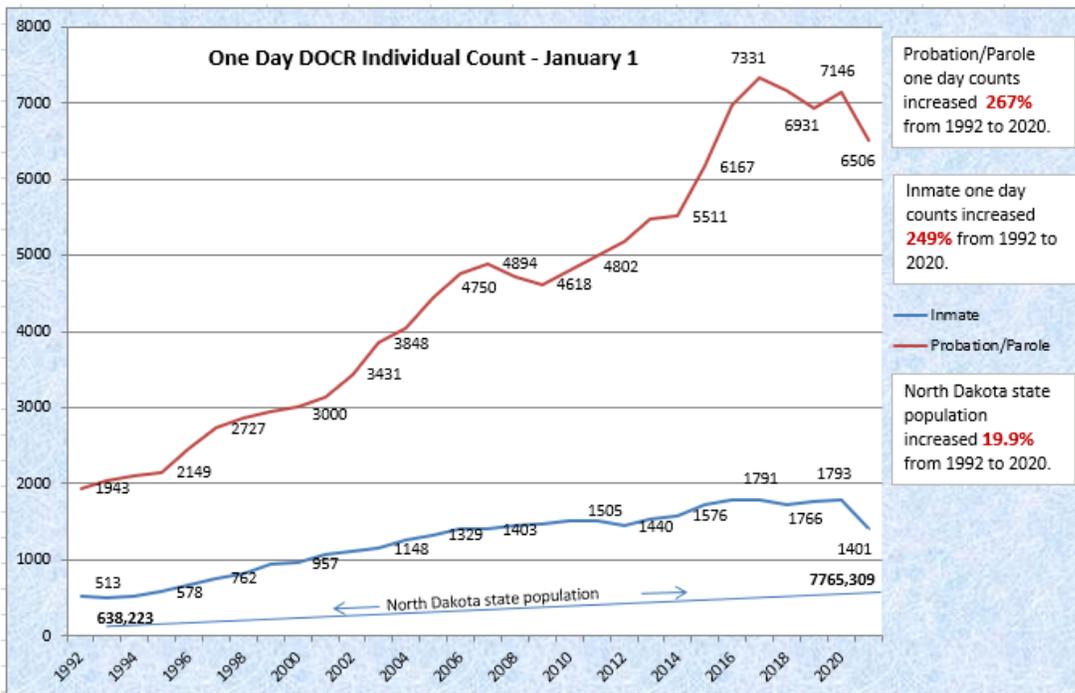


**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE KLEMIN, CHAIRMAN
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

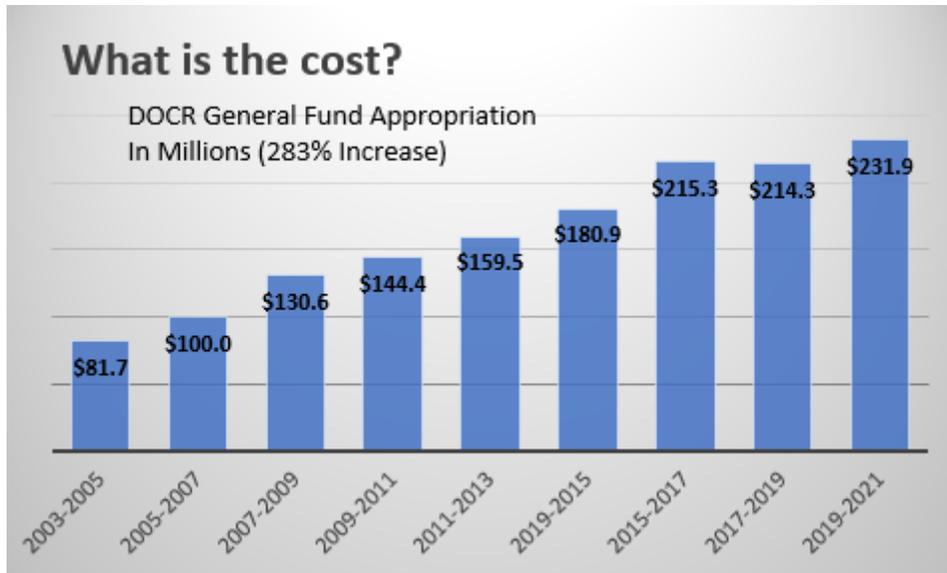
**PATRICK N. BOHN, DIRECTOR FOR NORTH DAKOTA PAROLE & PROBATION,
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS & REHABILITATION
PRESENTING TESTIMONY RE: HB 1443**

My name is Pat Bohn and I am the Director for North Dakota Parole and Probation, a division of North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR). I am here to testify neutral on behalf of the department on HB 1443.

We support the efforts of the bill to promote bias training for law enforcement and even working to gather data on bias driven crime; however, we have concerns about the penalty enhancement provisions as well as the data collection requirements. The department has generally sought to educate policymakers on criminal penalty expansion or enhancements. We are not aware of any evidence indicating that carving



ut and adding or enhancing criminal penalties for the very broad range of bias will result in neutralizing assaults or aggressive behavior stemming from bias. It is these types of enhancements that incrementally



contribute to the growth in not only corrections but our broader criminal justice system. It also has life-long implications to those convicted of a Felony. According to the data of the [National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction](#), North Dakota has 542 collateral consequences to a conviction compiled in century and administrative code. If you enact such a policy, I'd encourage you to establish baseline data and performance measures that could be revisited by future legislatures to determine whether the penalties are neutralizing or reducing the behavior that you aim to change. I want to be clear that by no means are we condoning these types of behaviors.

In closing we understand the concerns and issues this bill is attempting to address but carving out more special groups and creating new or enhancing criminal penalties will likely not improve the issue and only serve to further grow the criminal justice system and possibly produce unintended collateral consequences to a felony

conviction. We also respect your decision and will execute our responsibilities accordingly. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to try and answer them.