



State Bar Association of North Dakota

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Tony J. Weiler • *Executive Director*

Senate Bill 2002

Testimony of Tony J. Weiler

Senate Appropriations

January 6, 2021

Senator Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Tony Weiler, and I am the Executive Director of the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND).

SBAND is the professional association of 3,000 licensed North Dakota lawyers. On behalf of SBAND President Carrie Francis and our Board of Governors, I present this testimony in support of SB2002, the Budget Appropriation of the North Dakota Judicial Branch. SBAND and our Courts have a unique and long history of working together, and SBAND has a long history of supporting the Court's budget. The important and often constitutional work done by our Court System impacts both the bar, and the many citizens of North Dakota who they represent.

During the past year, and dealing with the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, the Court and SBAND worked closely to provide rapid and important information to members of our profession to ensure lawyers could provide the best representation possible for their clients. Without such a strong partnership between the bench and bar in North Dakota, this kind of cooperation would not have been possible.

It is vital to fund the Judicial Branch to the maximum extent possible. The State Bar Association encourages a Do Pass. While I will not be providing oral testimony, I'd be happy to answer any questions via email or phone.

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