

Testimony in Support of SB 2185

My name is Thomas Warman, and I am from Minot, ND. I currently serve as the principal of Sawyer Elementary School, and my wife is the office manager for the Domestic Violence Crisis Center in Minot. I support SB 2185. I additionally ask for an amendment to this bill to make domestic violence centers in North Dakota exempt from sales tax.

When someone is sent to prison for abusing their spouse, significant other, or children, their healthcare, meals, and boarding are taken care of at taxpayer expense. A Minot Daily News article dated August 6, 2019 quoted a state corrections spokesperson that it costs approximately \$43,000 to house an inmate for one year. Their victims, on the other hand, are often left to pick up the pieces on the goodwill of others. Families, churches, and schools offer support, but it is often the work of the domestic violence centers that do the most to help. They not only house victims, but they make sure that their medical needs are met. They help them navigate the legal system. They help them with counseling, addiction, education, and so much more.

In North Dakota, we do not charge sales tax to a variety of groups, including residents of Montana. I believe we should extend as many tax privileges as we can to domestic violence centers. Like churches, I believe that these organizations should be exempt from taxes, for it is my firm belief that they are truly doing the work of God.

Thank you.