

Chairperson Vedaa and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 2232.

My name is Kristin Rubbelke and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND). I am submitting testimony on behalf of NASW-ND's support of SB 2232.

This bill aligns with the NASW Code of Ethics that states social justice is a value of social workers. The ethical principle further asserts that professionals "seek to promote sensitivity to and knowledge about oppression and cultural and ethnic diversity."

Acknowledging the past and making a conscious effort to grow from hardship are qualities that Americans and North Dakotans pride themselves in. Yet, North Dakota is still one of three states in the nation that does not observe Juneteenth (June 19th) as a holiday.

SB 2232 changes that by establishing the yearly observance of Juneteenth. Many already consider this date as a second Independence Day, celebrating the emancipation of people who were enslaved in the United States.

We kindly implore you to support SB 2232 to show that North Dakota is a welcoming state that acknowledges the struggles of the past and celebrates the liberation of slavery in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kristin Rubbelke, LBSW, MSW
Executive Director
NASW-ND