



TESTIMONY on HCR 3022
from the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS—NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
to the
ND House Education Committee
March 1, 2023

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

The NASW-ND Advocacy Committee submits this testimony in support of HCR 3022.

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023 during a Jamestown vs. Bismarck High School basketball game, non-white students on the Bismarck High School team were taunted with racial slurs, monkey noises, and war cries. These actions continued with no intervention.

The lack of immediate action to prohibit these acts proves the need for the requested study. The safety and wellbeing of the players and spectators must be prioritized. The continued taunting of students in this manner is reprehensible, especially during a school activity. It remains imminent that clarification is needed regarding spectator expectations, enforcers of spectator conduct, and consequences when individuals break these expectations.

Social workers condemn racism at all levels. The commitment to diversity is rooted in the NASW Social Work Code of Ethics and the belief that creating truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces are necessary for individuals and communities to thrive. Public spaces, especially school events, should be safe spaces for all participants.

Students, parents, and spectators deserve to feel comfortable, welcomed, and supported during school activities. We encourage the legislature, school systems, and activities associations to take a hard look at how we can make school spaces not only safe but inclusive for all participants.

NASW-ND encourages you to make a DO PASS recommendation on HCR 3022.

Testimony submitted by:

Kristin Rubbelke, LSW, MSW, MASJ
Executive Director
NASW-ND

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND) is a membership association representing social workers in the state of North Dakota. The mission of NASW-ND is to strengthen and protect the practice of social work in North Dakota and to advance sound and equitable social policy. Our position on this bill is solidly grounded in our organization's mission.