

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am here to introduce SB 2202 and ask for your favorable consideration. This bill would establish a pilot program at the Attorney General's office to provide forensic medical examinations for victims of domestic violence and physical abuse. This would help to investigate instances of domestic violence and provide services to victims.

Background:

- The legislation is modeled after the Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE) program, also funded through the AG's office.
- Currently, victims of domestic violence do not have the same access to forensic medical exams as victims of sexual assault.

Goal:

- Provide access to highly trained forensic nurses, allowing victims of domestic violence to receive proper treatment and care, aiding in their recovery.
- Improve law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence.

Appropriation:

- The proposed appropriation for the pilot program is \$250,000 for the upcoming biennium.
- The funds would be used to develop the program, train nurses, and provide reimbursements for exam expenses after the program is developed.

Reporting:

- Data will be collected and reported to monitor the progress of the program.

This legislation will help to provide necessary care and resources to victims of domestic violence, and it would aid law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting cases of domestic violence.

I respectfully ask for your support. If you have any questions or concerns about the bill, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Cleary
North Dakota State Senate
District 35 — Bismarck