

Dear Chairman Klemin and members of the Committee. My name is Lee Rebsom, I am married to Harriette Rebsom, A [REDACTED] R [REDACTED] is our daughter. Harriette and my journey raising A [REDACTED] has not been an easy one. She was raped at the age of 10 and we did not learn about it until she revealed her rape as a child during therapy in the mental health unit at our local hospital in Dickinson. I still blame myself for not recognizing that this was more than a normal school accident. During the beginning of her senior year in high school A [REDACTED] attempted suicide at home and we admitted her into the mental health at our local hospital. It was the hardest thing that I have ever done as a parent and I still feel that pain. A [REDACTED] attempted another suicide while a patient in the mental health unit. The doctor in the ICU came out and said to us she should not be alive, it was a miracle that she survived. Later she again attempted suicide at home during a short leave from the mental health unit and was taken to the ER. During her recovery at the ICU she was sexually assaulted by a male nurse. She disclosed the incident to MHU staff who informed us the next morning about A [REDACTED]'s allegations. The hospital staff were adamant that this did not happen and told her and us, she must have dreamed it. We did however believe her and assumed the hospital had not found enough hard evidence against the male nurse to justify notifying law enforcement. My wife and I were totally focused on keeping our daughter alive and did not push the issue with the hospital, we trusted them to do their job. I could go on for many more pages with our struggles trying to protect and guide A [REDACTED]. I feel blessed every day that she is with us and a part of our lives. We have tried many times during the last 29 years to secure justice for A [REDACTED] hoping that it would help give her some closure. Every effort resulted in us facing a giant roadblock created by some law that seemed to favor the abuser, not help the victim. SB 2282 would be a huge step toward helping our daughter and other victims of sexual abuse secure some form of justice and hopefully give our family and other families some closure. Thank you for your attention. I urge your support of SB 2282.

Lee Rebsom (retired) Dickinson, ND.