

## Kristie Wolff – Communications and Engagement Coordinator, Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners

## Support SB 2067 North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee

January 4, 2023

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Kristie Wolff, I am the Communications and Engagement Coordinator for Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners (CDFNE).

CDFNE is a North Dakota based non-profit organization providing forensic medical services to children and adult survivors of sexual assault in western North Dakota. I am testifying today in support of SB 2067.

CDFNE forensic nurses have the privilege to work alongside the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) staff in western North Dakota a member of multidisciplinary teams that respond to reports of criminal sexual conduct against children. Prior to providing forensic medical examinations for youth at the CAC, our staff observe the forensic interview to better understand what medical services a child may need. We repeatedly witness the expertise of the forensic interviewers, their unique understanding of child development, and their extensive knowledge in addressing trauma in children.

Adequate funding of services provided by the CACs in our state, including forensic interviews, is crucial to guarantee child victims of sexual assault have services available to them for the best possible outcomes.

In conclusion, I am asking you to give a DO PASS recommendation to SB 2067.

Thank you, Kristie Wolff kristie.cdfne@midconetwork.com 701-751-4884