

Judicial Committee

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill #2202

By Senator Sean Cleary (District 35, Bismarck)

1/18/23

Summary: 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.

Background: This is modeled after the Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE) program, also funded through the AG's office. But currently, victims of domestic violence don't have the same access to forensic medical exams as victims of sexual assault. This bill would help to address that.

Goal: By providing access to examinations by highly trained forensic nurses, victims of domestic violence and physical abuse can have better access to services for their treatment and recovery.

- The examinations can also be used by law enforcement during the prosecution of those who commit domestic violence. This helps improve their ability to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence.

Appropriation: \$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 progress of the program.

I ask for your favorable consideration of this bill.