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Senate Bill No. 2282
Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony Presented by Seth O'Neill, JD, MSW
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Chairwoman Larson and members of the Committee, my name is Seth O'Neill and I am representing CAWS North Dakota in support of SB2282. CAWS North Dakota is the statewide coalition of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs in North Dakota.

Nationwide, one in four women and one in nine men report being sexual assaulted during their lifetime.¹ In North Dakota, the 2020 U.S. Census estimated a population of 779,094 individuals with 48.6% female and 51.4% male.² Using the national statistic of sexual assault, this would equate to 94,659 women and 44,450 men in North Dakota being sexually assaulted during their lifetime. For these survivors, the average lifetime cost of sexual assault is \$122,461.³

SB2282 would allow these survivors to seek some form of justice through civil actions against their offenders. Allowing a temporary period for sexual assault victims who would otherwise be barred by statute of limitations to litigate their claims is a positive step for victims in North Dakota. Sexual assault survivors deserve an opportunity to attempt to hold their offender accountable.

We encourage the committee to give SB2282 a do pass recommendation. I appreciate your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

¹ See [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 Report on Sexual Violence.](#)

² See [U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts North Dakota.](#)

³ See [Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults.](#)