

Good morning,

My name is Maria Schreiber, I am a current Junior at the University of Mary studying Social Work, and I am here in favor of bill 2205. I would like to say that I am not here today representing the University of Mary, but instead, I am here to represent and advocate for college students, particularly those who live out of state, like me. I have very gratefully, never required the aid of psychologists here in Bismarck, but I have known several close friends who have. However, they did not reach out and ask for the help they needed because there was “no point”. They were afraid to find a psychologist here because they knew they were not from here and would return to their home state for breaks, the summer, and after graduation, making the services they required not accessible during those times that they returned home. And unfortunately, there are many college students who seek help during this time away from their families because it is the first time that they feel as though they can.

College is a time when you learn a lot about yourself and how the things of your past have shaped you into who you are today. For those seeking psychological aid, often the aid is needed due to family relationships or lack thereof. Many people do not realize that things that happened to them when they were children at their parents, relatives, or siblings’ hands, were not right and were not their fault. College is the best time to seek help because individuals are more independent and able to start truly thinking on their own, and they are still growing and developing physically and mentally. It is unfortunately also a hard time to receive the help that they need. These college students know that when they return home, back to the place and people who were emotionally, physically, or sexually harmful to them, they will need the help of their psychologist and they will not be able to meet with them. It is a hard thing to ask for help, and it would be incredibly helpful and stress-reducing for this state’s college students if the committee would vote a due pass on bill 2205. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I stand for any questions.