



BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KELLY LEBEN
SHERIFF

03/05/25

House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division
Prairie Room
North Dakota State Capitol

To: Chairman Nathe, Vice Chairman Swiontek, Committee Members Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Richter, and Sanford

I'm writing in support of SB 2002. I've been employed in my current capacity as Behavioral Health Specialist for the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department for a little of 8 years. I have over 30 years of experience in law enforcement and corrections. I am a member of the Mental Health Court Planning Committee. In short, from when I started, working with mentally ill people was once in a while. Now, it's "how many today?" I believe a Mental Health Court would lessen the burden on correctional facilities by moving certain people through the judicial system faster. It would give some people the opportunity for treatment and monitoring in the community versus coordinating services from inside a correctional facility.

I've recently put together some information comparing the number of days in the Burleigh Morton Detention Center for mentally ill versus non-mentally ill inmates. In short, people in jail are incarcerated much longer if they have severe mental illnesses that need to be addressed versus those people who do not. I've added this attachment to my Registrant Information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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cc: District Court Judge Bobbi Weiler, Sheriff Kelly Leben, Major Trent Wangen, Captain Lisa Wicks

Attachment: Mentally Ill BMDC Inmates day in jail vs. Non-mentally Ill Inmates

COURTHOUSE

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