

**Senate Bill No. 2387**  
**House Human Services Committee**  
**Testimony Presented Katelyn Rivinius, Intern at NDD SVC**  
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**March 12, 2025**

Mr. Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Katelyn Rivinius, a social work student and Intern at North Dakota Domestic Sexual Violence Coalition, and I am testifying in favor of the bill SB 2387.

This bill would create a list of rights for sexual assault survivors. The first right being to give a survivor the right to consult with a sexual assault victim advocate during medical or physical examination. The second right would be the right to have privately retained counsel when speaking with law enforcement unless the counsel is not available in a timely manner or law enforcement is conducting a forensic interview with a child survivor. Thirdly it would give the survivor the right to access the report made by law enforcement unless the survivor is a minor or access to the document would hinder the investigation. And finally, the right to a document prepared by the attorney general that will explain the survivor's rights.



SB2387 is very important to a survivor healing after a traumatic event, due to the support that this bill proposes for them after the experience. The traumatic event of a sexual assault is intense and creates many problems for the survivor to live with. Having a team of trauma informed sexual assault victim advocates who can support the survivor.

through the experience is a critical tool to decreasing the amount of trauma that the survivor experiences.

Sexual Assault Victim Advocates are an important resource for individuals going through traumatic experiences due to the training that they participate in to help provide the support during such a traumatic experience.

Often when a survivor experiences something like this, they don't know what to do, or who to talk to, and having the right to speak with a sexual assault victim advocate, or counsel would give the survivor the ability to have an avenue to seek answers or create a plan.



Ultimately this bill is a support for survivors that gives them an opportunity to decide for themselves what resource or avenue is the best for them, when the assault took a decision away from them.

This bill empowers the survivor is an important bill for the survivors that it will impact.

I understand that the Chief of Police Association has suggested some amendments, and we are okay with them as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I am happy to answer any questions.

