

Testimony Prepared for the  
**House Industry, Business and Labor Committee**

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

By: Trent Wangen, Major

**RE: Supportive Testimony for House Bill 1060- The presumption of compensability for correctional officers**

My name is Trent Wangen and I currently serve as a Major with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. My primary duty is to serve as the Assistant Jail Administrator of the Burleigh Morton Detention Center, a 555 bed facility located in Bismarck.

I am testifying in support of HB1060, a bill to add the presumption of compensability for correctional officers.

I would support changing or amending the definition of correctional officer to include all trained full-time correctional officers. The current version of HB 1060 would not include correctional officers employed full time by counties or cities and would be limited to correctional officers employed by DOCR.

Correctional officers encounter many of the same strenuous activities and situations as full-time paid fire fighters and law enforcement officers. At the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department correctional officers and deputy sheriffs attend many training classes together due to the similarities of the job duties performed by both the correctional officers and deputy sheriffs. These classes include defensive tactics and intermediate weapons. Correctional officers at the Burleigh Morton Detention Center deal with situation requiring response to resistance, use of force, at a more frequent basis than the deputies at the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. Correctional officers from the Burleigh Morton Detention Center also serve alongside deputy sheriffs and firefighters on specialized teams like the Burleigh County Water Rescue Team. While serving on the specialized teams all team members encounter the same strenuous activities and situations regardless of the job titles or job descriptions.

I feel correctional officers deserve the same protections and benefits as the other public safety officers receive.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Trent Wangen, Major  
Burleigh County Sheriff's Department

