

Testimony in Support of Engrossed SB 2037
69th Legislative Assembly
House Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2025
Testimony of Travis W. Finck, Executive Director, NDCLCI

Chairman Klemin, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Travis Finck and I am the Executive Director for the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. The Commission stands in support of Engrossed SB 2037.

Senate Bill 2037 is a bill that comes to the committee from the Interim Juvenile Justice Committee of the 68th Legislative Assembly. In HB 1195 last session, the Legislature was tasked with studying “the criminal code to ensure equitable application to youths charged with juvenile delinquencies.” The Commission on Juvenile Justice was asked to research the issue and present to the interim juvenile justice committee. As a member of the Commission on Juvenile Justice, I was asked to chair a workgroup to review the desirability of separate and distinct criminal code for juveniles. In conducting our work, it became clear early on we did not have sufficient time in the interim to achieve a whole new juvenile criminal code. In its stead, we reviewed collateral consequences and disproportionate impacts on children accused of delinquent acts by being referred to the criminal code. As such, SB 2037 was born.

For the reasons states herein, the Commission is in support of SB 2037 and respectfully requests a do pass recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted:



Travis W. Finck
Executive Director, NDCLCI