



North Dakota Senate

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COMMITTEES:

Judiciary
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2285 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE JANUARY 29, 2025

Good Morning Chairman Klemin and House Judiciary Committee Members. My name is Claire Cory. I am a North Dakota State Senator representing District 42, which includes northwest Grand Forks. I stand as the prime sponsor of Senate Bill 2285 asking for your support.

Senate Bill 2285 says when a judge interprets a statute, regulation or rule, the judge is to follow the statute rather than deferring to the agency to conduct their interpretation.

This is a matter of proper separation of powers. This bill does not imply agencies are failing to serve North Dakotans well or acting in a way that is improper. This is more to ensure there is a proper review process regardless of the impact on agencies, a checks and balances if you will. 2285 in no way impacts the judge from agreeing with the agency interpretation of a rule or statute, if the judge agrees this is correct, after weighing the evidence in a neutral manner. In litigation involving private parties, there is no judicial deference to one party over the other; all parties are to be equal.

Chair Klemin and members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Cory