



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

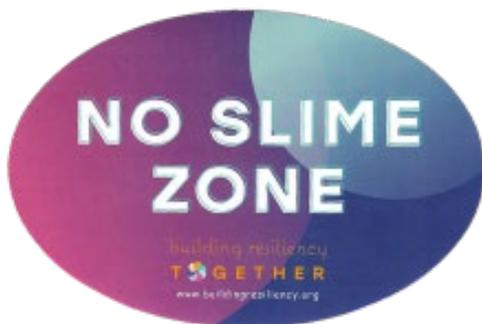
Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony In Support of House Bill #1047
2-18-25

Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Greg Kasowski, Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota. I am here in support of House Bill 1047.

House Bill 1047 is an innovative idea. Secondary traumatic stress and vicarious trauma are real issues for those who deal with cases containing graphic evidence—cases of child sexual abuse being a prime example.

Our Children's Advocacy Center staff, along with partners in law enforcement, human services, prosecution, and medical, deal with this horrific, disturbing content on a daily basis. Many professionals in these fields are adopting strategies to manage their exposure to traumatic information.



One example is the “No Slime Zone” sticker, which signals a need for professionals to focus on essential case details and to limit the re-telling of traumatic information to protect mental and emotional well-being.

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However, jurors are not able to be shielded from the graphic details during a jury trial. As they serve their civic duty, their exposure to this material is required. House Bill 1047 is a novel solution which offers secondary traumatic stress or vicarious trauma counseling to jurors who might benefit from it. Anecdotally, it could:

- Increase the willingness of jurors to serve, reducing jury pool exclusions
- Help jurors better focus on the facts of the case, leading to more informed and just verdicts

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I will stand for any questions.

Sincerely,

Greg Kasowski
Executive Director

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