

March 18, 2025

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1549

Chairwoman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kimberlee J. Hegvik, and I am the elected State's Attorney in Cass County. Prior to my election in 2022, I served as an Assistant Cass County State's Attorney for nearly 17 years.

I support HB 1549.

I believe that North Dakota should always strive to do better. I support funding programs to provide inmates with skills and tools that set them up for success upon release. This includes addressing behavioral health and social skills, as well as practical needs like transportation, housing, and identification documents. I support grants that encourage creative thinking and problem-solving regarding re-entry. I support evidence-based and data-driven approaches proven to improve outcomes. I support data collection and reporting. I believe sharing information is key to building and maintaining public confidence in our government and the criminal justice system.

I support HB 1549 because I believe in North Dakota's efforts to do better by improving our criminal justice system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberlee J Hegvik
Cass County State's Attorney