

In Support of Senate Bill 2296

Before the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

Senator Kristin Roers, Chair

January 30, 2025

Chairman, Senator Roers, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2296. My name is Kimberly Robbins, and I am the LaMoure County Emergency Manager and 9-1-1 Coordinator. I also currently serve on the Public Relations Committee and was a past president of the North Dakota 9-1-1 Association. I also have maintained my North Dakota Emergency Medical Responder and volunteer as a driver for the Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure. Thus, I feel thankful to work with the dedicated individuals that serve as public safety telecommunicators. Public Safety Telecommunicators help people each day in our county and State and thus I want to show support for their recognition as first responders.

As Public Relations Committee chair of the North Dakota 9-1-1 Association, it is one of my responsibilities to help support all those that enhance, improve, promote and facilitate the North Dakota Emergency 9-1-1 System – and the first ones that should be supported are the first ones that answer the call. The dispatchers do so much more than answer the call. They gather information, collect data, communicate with others and really lead the entire team of first responders to make the 9-1-1 system work.

LaMoure County is served by North Dakota State Radio to answer our 9-1-1 calls, dispatch our first responders, guide our responders and assist them along. As a driver on the local ambulance, the dispatcher is part of your team of first responders. I have been in the role of the driver of the ambulance requesting help from the dispatcher – from requesting patient updates to requesting additional resources to helping coordinate a multi-agency response. The dispatcher is really the first one on scene as they are gathering information from the caller and communicating with the rest of the first responder team. The public safety telecommunicator is there helping and guiding along the way. Thus, I would ask that the committee help support a valuable member of the Public Safety Team - - the public safety telecommunicator. Please support Senate Bill 2296 that would recognize the public safety telecommunicator as a First Responder.

Kimberly Robbins

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LaMoure, ND