

Testimony
Senate Bill 2247 – Department of Human Services
Senate Judiciary
Senator D. Nething, Chairman
January 25, 2011

Chairman Nething, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Director of the Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, for the Department of Human Services. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2247.

According to the ND Council on Abused Women's Services, 4,874 incidents of domestic violence were reported to crisis intervention centers in 2009. Of those cases, Alcohol use by abuser only, was indicated in 35% of the new cases. Alcohol use by both victim and offender was indicated in 10% of the cases. 45% of new cases involved the use of alcohol.

We recommend that your committee consider adding a licensed addiction counselor to the representatives of this commission listed in Section 1, number 2. This profession is uniquely qualified and trained in the substance abuse treatment area. Their professional experience would help shape key policy recommendations needed to prevent similar situations from reoccurring. With their added membership, a full complement of professions needed to fully analyze the situations under review would be in place.

I will answer any questions you have.