

Senate Bill 2276
House Judiciary Committee
Representative Lawrence Klemin, Chairman
March 22, 2021

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Major Tom Iverson, chief of operations for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. I am here to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2276.

Considering things going on around the country, I believe the expansion of those officials protected under NDCC 44-04-18.3 by adding prosecutors, district court judges, and judicial referees is appropriate. Under the current law, the phone number and home address of those officials is a confidential record and shall not be made public.

There was considerable discussion during Senate hearings about the additional language added in sections 1 and 5. Major Aaron Hummel, the highway patrol's chief of staff, provided testimony regarding our agency's concerns and submitted a proposed amendment. The Senate adopted that amendment, and we believe the bill, in its current form, is a good compromise to help protect the identity of individuals listed in NDCC 44-04-18.3.

The updated language still maintains the confidentiality of the protected officials' phone numbers and home addresses, and it puts the responsibility on the individual or the individual's employer to request that an individual's phone number and home address remain confidential. This request would have to be submitted annually. This change makes it simpler for those entities holding the records to actually maintain confidentiality because they would receive a notification annually rather than trying to keep track of who meets the criteria and who doesn't.

Thank you Chairman Klemin and members of the committee, this concludes my testimony and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.