

Good Morning,

I am respectfully let you know that the Cass County Sheriff's Office stands in opposition to this bill. Many items were not considered when this bill was drafted. I cannot testify this morning in opposition to the bill because of another commitment but will reach out to others to do so. The items that were not considered with this bill are the following.

- "Compelling Public Safety Interest" - When you are dealing with public safety, you should not have to meet the standard of compelling. The public safety of our citizens in Cass County should be a top priority. Any inclination of a public safety risk should not be met with having to reach the standard of compelling. I would ask who has the authority to determine the compelling standard?
- The state victim notification website partner, SAVIN/Vinelink, would need to be modified, as every jail in the state currently is tied to that system with an automatic upload of arrest info, court updates, which includes a mugshot that Vinelink displays. This will cause fiscal impacts to all counties, so I would hope there is an appropriations plan to reimburse counties. There will be a fiscal impact on the taxpayers of Cass County.
- Finally, many times these photos are released to assist in ongoing and active criminal investigations. When we release these photos, we tend to get additional information from witnesses and victims, which helps prosecute cases. For example, recently, we have had a string of ATM thefts that have affected the City of Fargo and our rural Cass County Communities. When we posted the booking photo with the media, we received additional information from our citizens, which is currently helping us link these cases together. This would not have happened if the photo was not released. Imagine a scenario where someone has been a victim of sexual assault and is afraid to come forward for fear of retribution. With that victim seeing that the suspect has been apprehended, that could bring relief and hopefully encourage that person to come forward to report that they were a victim. This bill has a strong consideration for the suspect and is not considering the victim.

I hope you consider these points. I always want to specify that I am always available to talk about these bills as you are drafting them Instead of trying to go back and fix them later. Everything done in the criminal justice system affects something else. It would be nice to talk about these on the front end to see how they will affect public safety in our community and what fiscal impacts they will have on our taxpayers. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for taking the time to evaluate this.

Jesse Jahner

Cass County Sheriff

1612 23rd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102

(701)793-6187

DHS National Leadership Academy 3rd Session

IADLEST Nationally Certified Instructor

