



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Committees:

Agriculture

Judiciary

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Chair Holmberg and Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Ruth Buffalo and I represent District 27 in south Fargo. HB 1313 passed into law in 2019. However, it passed into law without the one-time fiscal note of \$75,000. The House Appropriations Committee did pass the one time fiscal note which the House later approved, however, the Senate Appropriations Committee did not pass the one time fiscal note of \$75,000 in 2019.

This past summer I submitted a proposal of \$75,000 under the American Rescue Plan, but amended my request to meet the needs of BCI at \$300,000. This proposal failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee, but was kept alive in the House Appropriations Committee at the original ask of \$75,000.

I am here today to ask you, Senate Appropriations committee to please make a commitment to the issue of missing people. As it stands right now, this database is not functioning. I have visited with different agencies who have shared with me the challenge of not having this database in existence. They have shared with me how beneficial this database would be across the different jurisdictions in our great state of North Dakota.

In 2019, we found there is no database collecting data on missing people, period. Let's continue to lead the way as North Dakotans and get the missing database. This needs to be a priority for North Dakota.