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**TESTIMONY OF  
LINDSAY WOLD  
DIRECTOR  
NORTH DAKOTA STATE & LOCAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER  
BEFORE THE 68<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 27, 2023  
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2016**

Chairman Sorvaag, members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Committee Division, my name is Lindsay Wold and I am the director of the North Dakota State & Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). I am here today to testify in support of the Watch Center concept in Senate Bill 2016, a much-needed capability to ensure more thorough situational awareness and early warning by ensuring around the clock intelligence gathering and dissemination for both real and suspected crimes across the state and region.

The proposed 24/7 state watch center would be highly beneficial to intelligence-gathering and initial assessment efforts for the state of North Dakota. Currently, the NDSLIC's operational hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. therefore any situational awareness products, tips, or pieces of intelligence that come in are not seen until the following morning. With the proposed watch center, 24/7 monitoring of intelligence and information, along with open-source data on potential threats would be implemented. This creates increased situational awareness around the clock and more adequate incident preparedness, allowing first responder entities to make more informed decisions and respond to threats, both real and suspected, more rapidly. The watch center will be able to provide early warning alerts and bulletins to law enforcement and other first responders, which can help to prevent or mitigate an emergency event.

One of the greatest benefits of this new capability is the ability for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to dual notify both the state and local jurisdictions of online threats towards schools and more. Currently, the FBI will not dual notify because the NDSLIC does not operate after hours, weekends, or holidays. I believe that the partnerships between the NDSLIC and watch center will solve this problem and reduce risk to our citizens. There have also been recent events that a watch center would have increased efficiencies and saved overtime costs for the NDSLIC. One such example was the border protests just north of Pembina, that required re-routing of traffic, additional law enforcement support in the area, public information operations, and the potential for life-safety incidents as large amounts of semis amassed at local truck stops and rest areas during a storm. The NDSLIC used criminal analysts to support the all-hazards incident, which included overtime for night and weekend work.

Conclusively, as the director of the state's fusion center, I strongly believe that the implementation of a 24/7 state level watch center would greatly increase our ability to provide timely, validated intelligence to state leadership in support of public safety operations. With the increased situational awareness, adequate preparation, opportunities for prevention, efficient response, ability to identify patterns, identification of potential threats, and real-time decision making that a watch center would provide, we would be better equipped to handle emergency events and keep our communities safe.