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20220032
FILED MAY 24, 2022
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

May 24, 2022

Petra H. Mandigo Hulm
Clerk of Supreme Court
600 E. Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Supreme Court No. 20220032

Dear Ms. Hulm,

We are writing in support of the proposed amendments to North Dakota Supreme Court Administrative Rule 52 regarding reliable electronic means proceedings.

CAWS North Dakota is a non-profit coalition of domestic violence and sexual assault organizations in North Dakota. CAWS North Dakota provides legal representation to victims of crime with a special focus on domestic violence protection orders. Providing access to the courts through reliable electronic means has proved to be a safe and efficient method for clients seeking protection orders.

In addition, conducting proceedings through reliable electronic means has decreased barriers individuals have in accessing the courts. Though reliable electronic means proceedings, we have represented individuals in rural parts of North Dakota that do not have access to an attorney in their community or the resources required to travel to another community to access an attorney.

Overall, we believe the proposed amendments to North Dakota Supreme Court Administrative Rule 52 will serve the state of North Dakota well.

Respectfully,

Two handwritten signatures are shown. The first signature, on the left, is for Tara Muhlhauser and is written in dark ink. The second signature, on the right, is for Seth O'Neill and is written in a lighter, more stylized ink.

Tara Muhlhauser
Executive Director

Seth O'Neill
Civil Legal Remedies Project Attorney