

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATSA Urges Fargo Community to Support STAND's Crucial Work in Sexual Abuse Prevention

FARGO, ND (12/5/2024) – The Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA) is alarmed by efforts to relocate and move our members at STAND from their recently purchased property on South University.

We all agree sexual abuse needs prevention. For over ten years, STAND has been doing that crucial work in North Dakota. The individuals that STAND serves are already a part of your community—they live, work, and interact there. STAND works with clients to ensure healthy, offense-free lives through assessment and therapeutic treatment.

Intervention and treatment greatly reduce the chance of repeat offenses. 5% of sex crimes are perpetrated by people with prior sex crime convictions. Efforts to increase stigma, isolation, and limit treatment access elevates that risk. The majority of sexual assault victims know the person who harms them prior to the assault; research suggests that 4 out of 5 sexual assaults involve a known perpetrator. In most cases of sexual abuse, the perpetrator is known to the victim but not to the authorities. To prevent future harm, community members and leaders must partner with STAND to realign our approach to prevention through treatment, intervention, and education.

STAND staff are dedicated to making our communities safer and are an essential element in a broader criminal justice network. Join ATSA in embracing STAND as leaders in their community and a reminder that North Dakotans are actively leading the way to sexual abuse prevention.

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About ATSA: The Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA) is an international membership association focused on preventing sexual abuse through research, evidence-based practices, informed public policy, and community collaboration. Our members include treatment providers, researchers, educators, victims' rights advocates, law enforcement, and court officials. www.atsa.com

About Stand: STAND's mission is to create a safer North Dakota by effectively assessing, treating, and managing individuals who have committed sexual harm.