

**Testimony to the House Human Services Committee on
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3007**

By Sherry Adams

Southwestern District Health Executive Officer

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Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Sherry Adams and I am the Executive Officer for Southwestern District Health Unit (SWDHU). My health unit covers the eight counties of the Southwest which includes Adams, Billings, Golden Valley, Bowman, Slope, Dunn, Hettinger and Stark. I am writing in opposition of CR3007

Local and state governmental public health agencies are recognized nationally as having the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting the public's health. Local public health units serve as the foundation to the local public health system in a public health emergency. The World Health Organization declared the Worldwide Sars-COV-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020. Our state, along with most, if not all states, followed suit in declaring an emergency declaration. This declaration allowed us access to additional resources which have been and continue to be instrumental in our ability to test and vaccinate.

I have studied the history of pandemics for years and have been part of the state disaster response team for many years. I have been blessed to go and assist other states with various disasters, as well as help our state in previous disasters. As with natural disasters, there are many unknowns with pandemics. Pandemics historically go in waves, and the biggest lesson learned from 1918, the Great Pandemic, is that those states and countries that stopped response too soon ended up being the states that ended up in the worst condition with more cases, as well as loss of life. When we look at our "state numbers" right now, they look pretty good, but if you look at the nation, and the world, the pandemic is far from over. This virus is not only spreading, it is mutating. To suggest at this point that the pandemic is over does a huge disservice to the people of North Dakota.

We are the boots on the ground. We have seen the sadness, experienced the stress, worked tirelessly day after day. Of any group wanting this pandemic to be over, it sure would be us, BUT it is not over. Please do not end this declaration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.