



Board of Commissioners

Diane K. Knauf
Grand Forks, ND

David Engen
Northwood, ND

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Niagara, ND

Tom Falck
Grand Forks, ND

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Grand Forks, ND

Tom Ford
Grand Forks County
PO Box 5726
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RE: HB 1435 Relating to public employee's retirement system health insurance benefits coverage for emergency responders who die in the line of duty; and to provide for retroactive application.

March 9, 2021

Dear Chairman Vedaa, Vice Chairman Meyer, and members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Tom Ford and I am the Grand Forks County Director of Administration, I am writing you on behalf of Grand Forks County. The County supports HB 1435 - Relating to peace officers, patrolmen, correctional officers, and firefighters who die in the line of duty; and to provide for retroactive application. Family members of peace officers, patrolmen, correctional officers, and firefighters serve every day with those that serve us. HB 1435 will provide continued health insurance for dependents of peace officers, patrolmen, correctional officers, and firefighters who die in the line of duty - which the County believes they deserve and should be entitled to receive. It is not a unique proposal as other state's already provide this benefit to dependents of those who do put their lives on the line each day to protect us.

It is for these reasons that the County supports, and urges the approval of HB 1435.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Tom Ford
Director of Administration