Testimony in Support of HB 1496 Senate Business and Industry Committee March 19, 2025

Chair Barta and members of the Senate Business and Industry Committee. My name is Amy Phillips and I am submitting this testimony to ask you to give HB 1496 a **Do Pass** recommendation.

I support this bill because cold indoor temperatures have been shown to be associated with negative effects on health, with older individuals and those with chronic health problems more vulnerable to negative health outcomes.¹ In addition, studies have demonstrated a high certainty that taking measures to warm cold houses will have significant health benefits, and an indoor temperature of 64.4°F during cold months is widely accepted as the minimum.²

Thank you for taking steps to ensure the health and wellbeing of all North Dakotans, particularly those who are most vulnerable due to their health status.

¹ Cold indoor temperatures and their association with health and well-being, <u>Public Health</u>, 2023.

² Low indoor temperatures and insulation. WHO Housing and Health Guidelines, 2018.