

## TESTIMONY ON HCR 3007

### House Human Services Committee

January 19, 2021

### Mayor Brandon Bochenski, City of Grand Forks, ND

Chairman Robin Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Brandon Bochenski and I am the Mayor for the City of Grand Forks. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and express my and the City of Grand Forks' opposition for HCR 3007.

The City of Grand Forks, like many communities in North Dakota, has worked in an integrated and productive manner with the State of North Dakota throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic and specifically related to the Public Health Emergency declared by Governor Burgum and the State of North Dakota. Though we can now see light at the end of the tunnel with the recent start of community vaccinations, the Public Health Emergency Declaration is still needed from Governor Burgum over the next several months. Similar to my Mayoral Public Health Emergency Declaration, Governor Burgum's Emergency Declaration provides for reasonable administrative flexibility and short term expediency in responding to issues of the COVID-19 virus and for Federal, State, and local funding reimbursement.

Specifically, the Public Health Emergency Declaration has allowed the City of Grand Forks to partner with the State of North Dakota in responding to the following:

- Response needs of testing, contact tracing, and vaccinations;
- Small business support to include regulatory and financial relief;
- Small business service expansion opportunities to the hard hit hospitality industry; and
- Local industry regulatory start up assistance due to COVID-19 barriers.

The State of North Dakota and cities to include Grand Forks have performed well serving the needs of the citizens of North Dakota during this pandemic in large part due to our collaborative emergency action authorities. The City of Grand Forks is very thankful for all the State of North Dakota has done and our tremendous partnership throughout this challenging and historic pandemic.

The passage of HCR 3007 will significantly and negatively impact the State of North Dakota and cities like Grand Forks.

City of Grand Forks asks for a DO NOT PASS for HCR 3007