

Representative Karen M. Rohr, Chair
Senator Judy Lee, Vice Chair
House Human Services Committee

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Support for HB 3007, Relating to State of Emergency Termination

At the start of the SARS-COV-2 breakout in early March, a State of Emergency was necessary for North Dakota in order to prepare for and take preventative action for the safety of our citizens. Beds were prepared and hospitals were equipped with as many supplies as could be acquired. A two week stay at home period was advised by the North Dakota governor in order to evaluate the situation and to reduce the spread of the virus before we were well prepared. These preventative actions were useful in ensuring North Dakota was ready if ever hit with such high caseloads as to expand hospital care.

North Dakota has very fortunately not been hit with as great a catastrophe as New York or California. This can be attributed to many factors, a few of which include the population size and the time had to prepare as the virus spread further into the country. North Dakota thankfully has never needed the extra bed- filled auditoriums or event centers. Instead, we have asked for healthcare workers and have been provided with enough workers to fill the need that was there. We have seen a steady decline in cases over the past several months and are now adequately prepared for any additional breakouts even though these are rare and unlikely. Vaccinations are becoming available to those who would like to like to receive them.

All things considered, it is now January. We have watched this illness play out and have been able to see what it has done to our communities and citizens. Our healthcare systems have not been overwhelmed to the extent that citizens are suffering from lack of care. Much of the backing provided to support staying in a State of Emergency is from the pressure to continue to receive federal government funding. Receiving this funding from the federal government is clearly unethical due to our lack of an emergency situation. It is very clear that we are no longer in a State of Emergency. It is rather the inability to

move past this setback that is harming our citizens the most. I urge the Committee and House of Representatives to pass HB 3007. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.