

Testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee on SB 2004
January 14, 2021
North Dakota Association of City & County Health Officials
(NDSACCHO)

Good morning, Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Mary Korsmo and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Association of City & County Health Officials. On behalf of all 28 local public health units which I represent, I submit this testimony in support of SB 2004. The Department of Health budget includes \$5,250,000 in State Aid funding to local public health units. This level funding is much needed to fill gaps not covered through other sources.

Local public health experts assess the health of their respective communities by listening to the people who live in there. They bring together different organizations – such as schools, businesses, and government agencies – to make decisions in an effort to stop health threats before they start. It's the mission of public health to make sure we have clean air, pure water and safe neighborhoods to prevent each of us from getting sick or injured in the first place.

Communicable diseases, chronic diseases, and environmental health are consistently reported as the biggest three areas of concern across the state. State Aid funding helps address these issues through immunizations, tobacco assessments and treatment, maternal and child health, emergency preparedness and response, public health nurse home visits, agency administration, community health needs and engagement, injury prevention, school health, jail health, behavioral health and environmental health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony supporting SB 2004. I'm happy to answer any questions or provide additional information as requested. Please feel free to contact me at 701.471.2264 or mary.korsmo@ndaco.org.