

Chairperson Klein and members of the Industry, Business, and Labor committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 1442.

My name is Kristin Rubbelke and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, North Dakota Chapter (NASW-ND). On behalf of NASW-ND, we ask you to vote yes on HB 1442.

NASW-ND supports HB 1442 as it will reduce unfair evictions that may result in homelessness for North Dakota renters. Our support for this bill is consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics which asserts that “social workers should advocate for living conditions conducive to the fulfillment of basic human needs” (Code 6.01).

To help ease cost burdens for renters, HB1442 will place a cap on late rent fees at ten percent of past due rent. Although late fees vary throughout the state, the ten percent cap aligns with late fees at many major property management companies in North Dakota.

Additionally, the economic impact COVID-19 has made it difficult for numerous North Dakota renters to pay their rent on time. HB 1442 will help protect renters in the state, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic with its economic impact.

Thank you for your consideration. We implore you to vote yes on HB 1442.

Sincerely,



Kristin Rubbelke
Executive Director
NASW-ND