

SB 2012 (2023 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)  
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION  
HONORABLE JON NELSON, CHAIRMAN  
MARCH X, 2023  
TESTIMONY OF John Campbell, FOR FRASER LTD

Chairman Nelson and members of the Human Resources Division of the House Appropriations Committee, I am John Campbell, Executive Director of Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness in Fargo, North Dakota. I'm here to support SB 2012 but also to request an amendment to it for crisis services for youth at risk.

I have observed an upward trend that now has exploded for youth and young adults, people experiencing housing instability and homelessness in the state of North Dakota. Youth and young adults in crisis due to growing threats from mental illness, substance abuse, and the disruption of society, while traditional supports struggle to respond.

Services like SSRC seeks to intervene in severe crises facing young adults with three primary goals.

1. To save lives, preventing suicide, violence, overdose, and death from exposure.
2. Avoid and mitigate against events with severe negative consequences for young adults, such as disability, profound traumas, and criminal history.
3. Wrap around services including person centered care to support quality of life that is accessible and equitable for all.

This approach has been adopted as best practice in several states including Minnesota. Evidence with supporting data shows this model can and does reduce costs in local and state governments including provide care and emergency services before larger or more expensive services are needed. More importantly it proves effective in the lives of our youth and youth adults. Currently services like SSRC a department of Fraser LTD, have not been compensated for most of this effective care model.

Amendments made to support positive changes, in the future of youth and young adults.

- Strengthen fundamental influences upon youth - nuclear families, healthy networks of kin and loved ones, and traditional institutions of learning, faith, and community service.

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- New funding to compensate programs like SSRC whom North Dakota State Hospital and local mental health providers routinely refer youth and young adults to SSRC because of integrated model of support.
- Model new funding after certified emergency shelter care for teenage children, currently administered by Health and Human Services.
- Modify programs like 1915(i) and Community Connect to clearly allow for emergency intervention so stabilization can occur, qualify for existing programs and eligibility.

Without modifications, we will be turning away from a model that works and has proven results.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and I'd be happy to answer your questions.

*John Campbell*

**AMENDMENT TO SB 2012**