

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2240
House Appropriations Committee
March 13, 2023

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, My name is Brandon Bochenski and I am the proud Mayor of the City of Grand Forks.

I am providing this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2240 which would provide base retention funding to Minot, Fargo and Grand Forks.

As long as the Grand Forks Air Force Base has been in existence, it has been a vital part of our community. We have fought hard to keep the base in Grand Forks.

The funds within this bill will be used in the following ways in Grand Forks.

Advocacy and Awareness

- Annual strategic meetings with Air Force leadership at Pentagon and Air Combat Command
- Community and stakeholder education on new Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) designation at GFAFB and the additional cyber, communications, and technology work to occur
- Brief rotating senior Air Force leadership on GFAFB infrastructure, ISR and cyber-capabilities, and the eco-system among GFAFB, Grand Sky, UND, and Grand Forks community partners

Quality of Life

- Research, studies, and investments into quality of life for service members and their families to include support of K-12 public education, student services, higher education programming and research, medical care and behavioral/mental health, and educational and recreational opportunities
- Utilize the Support of Military Families Report, which is weighed by Air Force leadership during mission and basing decisions, to identify and address how to best support the military family

Strategic Advising

- Strategic guidance to raise national awareness and align the community and GFAFB with current and future Air Force initiatives
- Utilize experts to arrange meetings with top Air Force leadership and to help craft strategic priorities and messaging
- Receive updates on external and internal priorities and plans for DoD policies and budgets

Thank you for your time as I request a Do Pass on SB 2240.