



WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO
ND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
DURING THE 68th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
On March 1, 2023
IN SUPPORT OF
HCR 3030
REGARDING

**A Concurrent Resolution Directing the Legislative Management to Consider
Studying Homelessness and Barriers to Housing**

Chairman Weisz
Vice Chairman Ruby
Members of the Human Services Committee

I applaud the authors of this legislation for their continued, dedicated, and sincere interest in addressing homelessness and affordable housing for the citizens of North Dakota. I testify today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3030 so that North Dakota Legislators and the people of North Dakota can more fully understand the meaning of and the extent of homelessness in North Dakota. Homelessness, its causes, and its remedies, is misunderstood by the majority of those who have not faced an insecure housing situation. Homelessness is not just the individual found living under a bridge or in a parking ramp elevator shaft. Homelessness affects individuals, young and old, families with children, and children with no family attachment. **Can you imagine what it would be like to be a seventeen year old with no family and no place to call home.** This is happening in North Dakota, and it is just wrong!!!

More and better knowledge of the extent of homelessness in North Dakota is needed, but let's not wait for this, or any study, to be completed before applying additional resources towards the issue. The need for additional fiscal and behavioral health resources are great. Increased and permanent funding for the Housing Incentive Fund can go a long way towards addressing this need, knowing that at least ten percent (10%) of the fund must be made available to prevent homelessness through the provision of rental assistance, emergency assistance, barrier mitigation, or targeted supportive services designated to prevent homelessness. Funding HIF to \$50 million is not excessive. HB 1014, now before the Senate, is where an increase to the HIF is possible.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of HCR 3030 and Thank You for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,
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