



TESTIMONY on HCR 3030
from the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS—NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
to the
ND House Human Services Committee
March 1, 2023

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee:

The Advocacy Committee of the NASW-ND submits this testimony in support of HCR 3030.

Social workers in North Dakota are often on the front lines of providing support for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Among other services, social workers offer counseling, case management, job search assistance, crisis intervention, and information and referral related to housing, rent assistance, and health care services.

When communities are unable to provide sufficient affordable and accessible housing, and when behavioral health resources are in short supply, social workers see first-hand the impact that homelessness has on child development, family relationships, health, and psychological and emotional well-being.

The profession of social work recognizes that homelessness is one of the grand challenges facing our country and local communities, and the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare has called on policy-makers to:

- expand investment in affordable housing and expand access to housing subsidies
- prevent homelessness or ensure its brevity by supporting rapid re-housing and time-limited rental assistance
- ensure that evidence-based psychosocial interventions accompany housing assistance
- develop and evaluate housing-led interventions for specific populations including youth, older people, and veterans.

HCR 3030 will help advance the efforts to ensure that no North Dakotan is without a home. Thank you for your support of this bill.

Testimony written by:

Amy Phillips, MSSW, MDiv, PhD

Vice President, Board of Directors NASW-ND, and member, NASW-ND Advocacy Committee

Testimony submitted by:

Kristin Rubbelke, LSW, MSW, MASJ

Executive Director

NASW-ND

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND) is a membership association representing social workers in the state of North Dakota. The mission of NASW-ND is to strengthen and protect the practice of social work in North Dakota and to advance sound and equitable social policy. Our position on this bill is solidly grounded in our organization's mission.

https://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EndHomelessness_2Pager.pdf

<https://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/end-homelessness/>