

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,
I want to give a written testimony about the bill regarding requesting funds from the State Recovery Fund to the Department of Commerce for the Lighthouse organization. This organization has been providing vital support to the Fargo community during a time of increased crisis in mental health and substance use. The Lighthouse has been offering long term support for those suffering from substance use disorder and mental health disorders through their services such as Free Through Recovery, Community Connect, and Peer Support Services.

An appropriation for a grant for substance use disorder and mental health recovery services is a critical investment in the well-being of our communities. Substance abuse and mental health challenges impact individuals and families across the state, and it is imperative that we provide accessible and effective support for recovery.

Investing in these services has a positive impact on public health and safety. Substance use and mental health disorders can lead to a range of negative outcomes, including increased crime, decreased productivity, and strained healthcare systems. By providing resources for individuals to access treatment and support, we can reduce the burden of these challenges on our communities. Success is access. Please give a "Do Pass" recommendation.

Thank you,

Ethan Harsell, District 43