North Dakota Senate Industry and Business Committee
In Support of HCR 3030 - Studying Homelessness, Barriers to Housing, and More

March 14, 2023

Dear Chairman Larsen and members of the Industry and Business Committee,

My name is Katie Jo and I work at the Grand Forks Housing Authority where I've focused on homeless issues over the past 8 years. In 2022, I served as the Board Chair of the North Dakota Continuum of Care, the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Program for our state's concerted efforts on addressing homelessness, which has provided me with a fair share of knowledge regarding the issues at hand and led me to request your support of HCR 3030. This study resolution provides great opportunities for our state to holistically study homelessness - the causes, numbers, types, impacts - and the solutions to addressing the identified issues.

There are a lot of data points that demonstrate the need to address housing and homelessness. With so much discussion surrounding workforce issues and how to address them, there seems to be a key aspect that is largely overlooked - housing. Specifically, *affordable* housing is often less likely to be discussed, or funded, because of the additional investments required to develop and maintain it. HCR 3030 would allow for a comprehensive report to be brought forward with strategic investment recommendations for the next legislative session.

I have seen the effects housing instability has on an individual level, family level, and as a community member. On a personal note, I struggle explaining to my 4.5 year old daughter why someone is begging for money on the street as we go by. I used to think, "they just need to get a job," but I have learned over the years it's not quite that simple. I do not believe in handouts; I believe in investing in solutions that have been proven to work, holding all parties accountable, and treating people with dignity and respect while doing so. Please vote DO PASS on HCR 3030.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Jo Armbrust