



**Commissioners**

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Testimony in Support of HB 1012  
House Appropriations – Human Resources Division

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Nelson and members of the committee,

My name is Katie Jo Armbrust and I work for the Grand Forks Housing Authority. Our organization provides housing assistance and services for more than 2,000 households in the Grand Forks area, primarily for those earning extremely low income.

This testimony reflects our support for the \$260,000 in funding for 2025-2027 included in HB 1012 under Northeast Clinic's budget for operations of The Nest, our recently opened low-barrier emergency shelter for adult individuals. This program developed in 2024 to meet a community-wide need; The City recognized withdrawal management was not being utilized for its original purpose, for those in need of supervision while going through withdrawal, so much as a place being sought for shelter by people who were unable to access alternate resources in the community.

The Nest is a 24/7 emergency shelter that serves people who may be under the influence of substances as well as those who may be struggling with their mental health, unlike other shelters within the region. Staff work incredibly closely with partners such as the Grand Forks Police Department, Northeast, Altru Health System, Spectra Health, and other homeless providers. The Nest has received financial support from City of Grand Forks, County of Grand Forks, the State, and Altru Health System.

Since opening on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, we have supported 87 individuals in our 16-bed facility. Of the 114 days in operations, we have been at maximum capacity most of those days and have been over-capacity 29 of those days. As we work with a larger group to navigate a comprehensive response for people experiencing homelessness across the state, we appreciate the support from Northeast and the incredible collaboration to shelter those we mutually serve from the region.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Jo Armbrust

