

Chairman Nelson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aaron Hall, of Grand Forks. My business partner is Troy Fisher of Devils Lake. We represent All of Us In Recovery a state wide provider for Community Connect and Free Through Recovery programs for Peer Support and Care Coordination. We are in support of HB1012 and their budget expansions for Free Through Recovery and Community Connect.

Previously Troy and I have decades of serving this population in the Human Service field in rural regions. These two programs are a revolutionary bridge to existing services for any participants in rural regions of the state where recovery and mental health services are almost nonexistent. Both of these programs uniquely offer flexibility to remove barriers to the participants by meeting them at their problems and offering solutions.

We have seen the correlation between community-based resource funding caps and upticks in jail population. From our viewpoint, it is clear that every dollar spent on flexible community-based programs like Free Through Recovery and Community Connect lead to direct reductions in rural jails, law enforcement centers, and the State Penitentiary. Furthermore, these programs are cornerstone resources in rural areas where otherwise no other resources exist.

Conversely, when these programs are capped or underfunded, it is the rural regions like Rugby, Harvey, Northwood, Cooperstown, Carrington, Newtown, Hazen, Watford City etc who hurt the most – as they are often devoid of other options, unlike metro areas.

For these reasons, Troy and I support Free Through Recovery and Community Connect budget expansions.

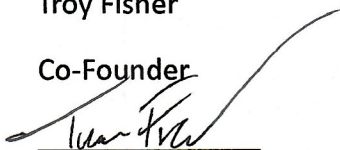
Aaron Hall

Co-Founder

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Troy Fisher

Co-Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Fisher', written over a horizontal line.