

02/04/2025



**FROM THE DESK OF ADAM MARTIN FOUNDER AND CEO OF F5 PROJECT**

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House Appropriations - Human Resources Division

Today, I stand before you to advocate for support of HB 1012, with a particular focus on Free Through Recovery and Community Connect. These programs have made a significant impact on citizens across North Dakota, providing essential services to our communities. From a provider's perspective, we have been able to offer care to an average of 500 clients each month, helping them secure housing, employment, and recovery.

However, I want to draw your attention to a critical component of our support system: the Recovery Housing Assistance Program (RHAP). This program has been vital in ensuring the success of initiatives like Free Through Recovery and Community Connect. It effectively bridges the gap between incarceration or treatment centers and stable housing. When speaking with providers across North Dakota, the most pressing challenge consistently identified is housing. The need for safe and affordable housing is particularly acute for individuals transitioning from prison or treatment centers. RHAP addresses this need by allowing us to secure temporary housing while we search for permanent solutions.

The program provides funding for participants to stay in sober living environments for up to three months, in stark contrast to the often precarious situations they face—such as living with friends for a week, in drug houses, or reconnecting with old acquaintances. I highlight this issue today because Governor Burgum has recognized the growing demand for sober living options in North Dakota and has proposed \$4 million in his budget to address this need. Unfortunately, in the Armstrong budget proposal, this amount was reduced to \$1.5 million, which will serve far fewer individuals than originally planned, especially considering the over 1,200 people currently on the RHAP waiting list.

I strongly urge this committee to review this situation and consider the essential amendments needed to support participants, their loved ones, and our communities as a whole. Your action today can make a meaningful difference for countless individuals in need.

Adam Martin, Founder and CEO of F5 Project

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Martin'.

