

To whom it may concern,

I am providing testimony today in support of funding a new North Dakota State Hospital. I am currently a third-year medical student at the University of North Dakota. Prior to my psychiatry rotation I doubt I would have been able to locate The State Hospital on a map. However, after rotating there I now know that it is a critical and irreplaceable resource for the people of North Dakota. I spent two weeks rotating at The State Hospital and was provided a cottage to stay in with two other medical students. During our time there we worked closely with staff members and learned about the many services provided by The State Hospital including but not limited to a pharmacy, radiology office, medical laboratory, and a comprehensive interprofessional care team. I was impressed by the dedication of the providers at The State Hospital to provide care to patients who truly had no other place to go.

During my stay it also became apparent how old the buildings themselves were. I was there for an initially temperate first week, but when temperatures dipped the second week it was noticeable cooler inside as the buildings as older infrastructure struggled to keep pace with the elements. Lastly, I want to note that The State Hospital is the only public institution that medical students rotate through in the entire state, the rest of our rotations are through private clinics. The time it takes to onboard, instruct, and house medical students is an apt example of The State Hospital providing a not always intangible, but important good. The State Hospital is a net good for North Dakota and its residents, please consider funding the new State Hospital.

Sincerely,

Henry Elsenpeter