



**Commissioners**

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

February 5<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. We are the primary provider of housing assistance in Region IV, with some client services as well as emergency shelter, to more than 2,000 households in the Grand Forks area.

I provide testimony today in support of HB 1012, specifically for the Permanent Supportive Housing grants, of which we receive for LaGrave on First. For those that may not be as familiar, LaGrave on First is a Housing-First Permanent Supportive Housing project with 42 units of one-bedroom, one-bathroom, fully furnished units, that opened in August of 2018. Our tenants are referred to us using a coordinated system which works with homeless providers in the area and across the state; LaGrave on First is specifically for people who have experienced chronic homelessness, which means twelve-plus months of homelessness and they have a disability. Permanent Supportive Housing: permanent meaning there are no restrictions on the length of tenancy, we use typical 12-month leases; supportive meaning there are voluntary services offered on-site and coordinated for off-site to support tenants with their goals and help keep them housed; housing is affordable to each tenant through Federally funded Project-Based Vouchers, each tenant pays approximately 30% of their monthly income towards rent.

During the 2021 legislative session, the administration of these funds changed to the Behavioral Health Division and greatly improved our ability to provide wraparound, supportive services to our tenants. We have housed and supported 55 people since July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023 through the end of 2024. We have utilized these dollars to meet tenant needs by not only funding our 24/7 housing support service staff, but also our occupational therapy and nutritional program services.

As we are well aware, ending homelessness requires robust services, this grant provides that. We are grateful for the support provided by the Behavioral Health Division and the continued funding of PSH Grants by you all.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Jo Armbrust".

Katie Jo Armbrust

