

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HB 1570

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2025

Denise Ann Dykeman [REDACTED]

Committee chair and members of the committee, my name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota, and a practicing attorney.

I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 2570. I support this bill because it would increase the tax on nicotine products to fund additional behavioral health services. As someone with a close family member who suffers from mental illness, I can attest that these services make a huge difference, not just to the suffering person, but to that person's entire community.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the average state cigarette tax is \$1.97 per pack. In ND it is only .44!

With additional resources, we can do much better at taking care of North Dakota's most vulnerable citizens suffering from behavioral health issues and helping folks to be healthier and live productive lives.

Please support HB 1570. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Denise A. Dykeman

[REDACTED]