

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ms. Erickson, and I reside in Grand Forks. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 1272.

During my college years in North Dakota, I faced a difficult situation when my landlord unexpectedly gave me a week's notice to vacate my unit. I was unaware of my renter's rights at that time, and this sudden requirement disrupted my studies and work commitments. My landlord claimed the move was necessary for renovations, despite my signing a lease months earlier with plans to stay. I was given strict instructions to clean the unit according to a checklist to avoid losing my security deposit, adding to my stress as I juggled summer courses and multiple jobs.

North Dakota law offers limited protections for the 37% of residents who rent. Many renters fall into financial distress and risk homelessness because current laws favor property owners and management companies. This creates a significant power imbalance, leaving renters vulnerable to deceit, especially during move-out.

I urge you to support HB 1272 and help address the challenges faced by renters. Thank you for your time and consideration.