

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
TO SB 2030

Date of Hearing: January 21, 2025

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12th St SW, Minot, ND 58701

Committee chair and members of the committee, my name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota, and practicing attorney. I am here in support of Senate Bill 2030. I support this bill because it provides increased funding for homeless grant programs and the Housing Incentive Fund to provide gap funding for increased development.

I have volunteered at Project Bee in Minot before it closed and I saw first-hand the need for shelters for the unhoused community. Most of the folks I spoke to were good hearted people, struggling to overcome mental illness, struggling with systemic inequalities, having a hard time finding work without a vehicle, place to shower, or decent night's rest. Add criminal records, domestic violence, poor credit scores, unintended pregnancies, and life gets very hard to manage very quickly!

I recently visited the hospital emergency room in Minot, and there were not enough beds for everyone to be seen quickly. Members of the unhoused community were also in the ER in a desperate attempt to find somewhere warm to be in sub-freezing temperatures. North Dakota can do much better in taking care of her most vulnerable citizens and helping them to live productive lives. There are only 700,000 of us. Let's work together to make sure each one is safe, healthy, free, and perusing happiness. We can do it.

Please support SB 2030.

Respectfully,

Denise A. Dykeman
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