

**Do Not Pass Testimony  
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota  
on SB2030  
in the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division,

I am writing as a citizen and believe SB2030 is poor legislation that recklessly throws money at a problem with little apparent thought of unintended consequences. This legislation appropriates an unprecedented \$200,000,000.00 to housing the homeless in North Dakota.

An analysis of actions and missteps in Fargo over the decades can provide guidance of what not to do in regards to homelessness. Fargo's initial keep-it-local solutions have dumped money and resources into a bottomless pit where the support attracts additional homeless to move to Fargo. This mismanaged solution has now placed requests to the state level, asking for their resources.

The mismanagement of local resources caused the local fire department to fall behind in needed appropriation to the extent that our fire fighters in order to raise enough revenue for their department, initiated a ¼% sales tax. Instead of the needed property tax revenue going to the fire department, it was diverted to many other programs including a wet-house, needle exchange, housing for those who could follow housing rules, and many other programs. Despite this, the local no-income housing has experienced vacancy to the point that the scheduled next set of housing construction was postponed. Why the vacancy rate while there are homeless present? There are qualifications of following the rules. Many of the homeless do not follow the rules. Apparently the \$200,000,000.00 appropriation will purchase more housing. This will merely further increase the vacancy rate and attract more homeless from out-of-area. They will initially receive housing until some break the rules and then join the homeless on the street.

Fargo is also a breeding ground of crime from some of the homeless. Most major crimes in Fargo do not receive prosecution or significant investigation. This draws the regional homeless to Fargo where they will likely not be hassled in pursuit of their desired lifestyle. Word of this spreads. So piling serious money on top of this disaster is the solution? We can do better than that. Drop the needle exchange. Close the wet-house. Start enforcing the law. The homelessness problem will assuage. Don't feed the beast with even more money and handouts! Please give SB2030 a Do Not Pass. Thank you!

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