

Senate Bill 2030 (2025)
Senate Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division
Honorable Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman
January 21, 2025
Testimony of Fraser, Ltd. Supporting Bill

Good afternoon Chairman Sorvaag:

I am Bruce Murry, a registered lobbyist for Fraser, Ltd., of Fargo, North Dakota. Fraser supports children, youth, and adults on their life's journey towards independence. Services include our Stepping Stone Resource Center for homeless young adults, supported living services for people who are homeless or have lifelong disabilities, mental health services, and childcare.

Fraser supports the proposed \$200 million investment in the Housing Incentive Fund and other features of this bill. This would be a historic investment in safe, affordable, decent housing.

Given Fraser's mission, it is worthwhile to consider "visitability" in new construction. Visitability involves few or no steps onto the main floor, 32-inch doorways, and a bathroom on the first floor. This allows someone using a wheelchair to visit easily. Even better, visitable features allow for inexpensive remodeling if a future resident uses a wheelchair. We hope the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency can provide educational materials to developers and builders under this bill, such as those found at <https://ncil.org/visitability/about-visitability/#start>.

We appreciate and support the diligent and highly responsive work NDHFA has provided for North Dakotans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. They have engaged with numerous related efforts, such as our Department of Health and Human Services, especially its Money Follows the Person Program. Fraser would very much like to partner with NDHFA to meet the needs of people at risk of homelessness.

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