



**Support for SB 2018
Senate Appropriations
Government Operations Division
Chairman Wanzek
January 15, 2025**

Chairman Wanzek and Members of the Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division,

I am Brekka Kramer, President | CEO of the Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) and Executive Committee Member of the North Dakota Military Commission. On behalf of the MACEDC, Task Force 21, and our member investors, I offer testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2018 and urge the committee to continue the funding for the Base Retention Grant Program.

Minot truly isn't Minot without Minot Air Force Base. Minot Air Force Base is the only dual-wing nuclear capable base in the nation hosting two legs of the nuclear triad. The three legs of the U.S. nuclear triad serve as the backbone of America's national security. The triad, along with assigned forces provide 24/7 deterrence to prevent catastrophic actions from our adversaries. The triad stands ready, if necessary, to deliver a decisive response, anywhere, anytime. The triad includes land, sea and air. Minot Air Force Base has both the land and air deterrence. The 5th Bomb Wing operates 26 B-52 aircraft, and the 91st Missile Wing operates 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) sites. Major modernization projects are underway for the bombers, missiles and the weapons system.

The mega Department of Defense project Minot is working to prepare North Dakota for is the U.S. Air Force's Sentinel ICBM weapon system, a critical modernization of the ground-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad, the bedrock of national security. The Sentinel system replaces the aging ICBM system, which has been in service for over 50 years.

While military has an economic impact of around \$1.2 billion on North Dakota, Minot Air Force Base contributed \$621 million in 2023. Minot Air Force Base plays a vital role in our national defense and our state economy, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our community has the resources it needs to continue to support advancement of the modernization projects that are underway.

I am joined by leadership from Grand Forks and Fargo, united together to support military throughout North Dakota, working to make North Dakota our most military-friendly state in our nation.

Thank you,

Brekka Kramer
Minot Area Chamber EDC President | CEO
North Dakota Military Commission Executive Committee Member