

**Senate Appropriations-Human Resource Division Committee**

**HB 1012**

**March 17, 2025**

**Senator Dick Dever, Chair**

**Summary:**

- The City of Bismarck **strongly supports HB1012** relating to appropriation for defraying the expenses of various divisions of the department of health and human services.

**Testimony:**

Chairman Dever and Members of the Senate Appropriation Human Resource Division Committee:

On behalf of the City of Bismarck, I am Susan Kahler, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator and today I offer testimony in **strong support** to HB1012 with amendment to restore the line item for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Grants to local public health units in the amount of \$6,250,000. This funding is critical to ensuring that tobacco settlement dollars are effectively used to provide essential services to our local communities, aligning with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Best Practices for tobacco and nicotine use prevention and reduction.

Local public health units play a pivotal role in implementing tobacco control programs that are tailored to the specific needs of our communities. These grants are vital to funding programs that support individuals in quitting tobacco use, prevent youth initiation, and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. Without this dedicated funding, there is no guarantee that the resources necessary for these impactful programs will reach the local level, where the need is greatest.

In conclusion, I ask for amendment to restore line item of \$6,250,000 in Tobacco Prevention and Control Grants to local public health units. Without this funding, we risk losing the momentum we've gained in tobacco control and limiting access to vital services at the community level. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Susan Kahler, SAP Coordinator  
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