



**Commissioners**

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Testimony in Support of HB 1012  
Senate Appropriations – Human Resources Division

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Dever and members of the committee,

My name is Katie Jo Armbrust and I work for the Grand Forks Housing Authority. This testimony reflects our support for the \$260,000 in funding for 2025-2027 included in HB 1012 under Northeast Clinic's budget for operations of The Nest, our recently opened low-barrier emergency shelter for adult individuals. This program was developed in 2024 to meet a community-wide need; The City recognized withdrawal management was not being utilized for its original purpose, for those in need of supervision while going through withdrawal of substances, so much as a place being sought for shelter by people who were unable to access alternate resources in the area.

The Nest is a 24/7 emergency shelter that serves people who may be under the influence of substances as well as those who may be struggling with their mental health, unlike other shelters within the region. Staff work incredibly closely with partners such as the Grand Forks Police Department, Northeast Human Service Center, Altru Health System, Spectra Health, and other homeless providers. The Nest has received financial support from City of Grand Forks, County of Grand Forks, the State, and Altru Health System, as well as a Federal grant.

Since opening on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, we have supported 105 individuals in our 16-bed facility. In less than 6-months of operations, we have been at maximum capacity 165 out of 175 of those days and have been over-capacity 91 of those days, with our staff working to help the more than 109 people we did not have enough beds for. As we work with a larger group to navigate a comprehensive response for people experiencing homelessness across the state, we appreciate the support and partnership with Northeast and the incredible collaboration to shelter those we mutually serve from the region.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Jo Armbrust". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Katie Jo Armbrust

