

69TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Testimony Senate Bill 2135

Senate Industry and Business Committee

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Submitted by: Brian Paulson, Vice President, North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association

Chairman Barta and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the proposed legislation to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 18-04-04 and section 18-05.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the firefighters death benefits fund. This legislation to increase the benefit amount to a survivor of a firefighter line of duty death is important and it is very appreciated by the fire service in North Dakota.

As the fire chief for the Jamestown Rural Fire Department, it is reassuring to know that my firefighters and their families have the support of the state of North Dakota. This benefit is not one that gets much attention or notice but is extremely important in what could be an organizations darkest hours.

As with most insurance policies or plans it is important to review these benefits from time to time and if necessary, adjust them to reflect the current times. This legislation adjusts the benefit to help meet the immediate needs of the survivors of a fallen firefighter.

This legislation reflects our North Dakota values of supporting each other in times of great need. This is truly appreciated by the North Dakota fire service, our communities we serve and our families.

The North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association fully supports this legislation to increase the death benefit from \$10,000 to \$25,000. We respectfully request a Do Pass on SB 2135.

Sincerely,



Brian Paulson

Vice President, North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association; and  
Fire Chief, Jamestown Rural Fire Department