**2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SCR 4001**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations - Government Operations Division**
Red River Room, State Capitol

SCR 4001
1/15/2025

A concurrent resolution authorizing the Budget Section of the Legislative Management to hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditure of new or revised block grants passed by Congress.

2:03 p.m. Chairman Wanzek opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Wanzek, Vice-Chair Dwyer, Senator Burckhard, Senator Erbele, and Senator Sickler.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Federal Block Grants

2:03 p.m. Levi Kinnischtzke, LC Senior Fiscal Analyst provided budget information.

2:06 p.m. Maria Effertz, Director of Community Services, ND Department of Commerce introduced Ben Faul Director for ND Department of Commerce.

2:07 p.m. Ben Faul, Director for ND Department of Commerce, Community Services Block Grant (CSGB), testified in favor and submitted testimony #33421, #33422 & 33423.

2:15 p.m. Senator Dwyer moved a Do Pass on SCR 4001.
Senator Burckhard seconded the motion

| .**Senators** | **Vote** |
|---|---|
| Senator Terry M. Wanzek | Y |
| Senator Randy A. Burckhard | Y |
| Senator Michael Dwyer | Y |
| Senator Robert Erbele | Y |
| Senator Jonathan Sickler | Y |

Motion passed 5-0-0

2:16 p.m. Chairman Wanzek closed the hearing.

*Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk*

# Community Services Block Grant Public Hearing

NORTH Dakota | Commerce
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Division of Community Services

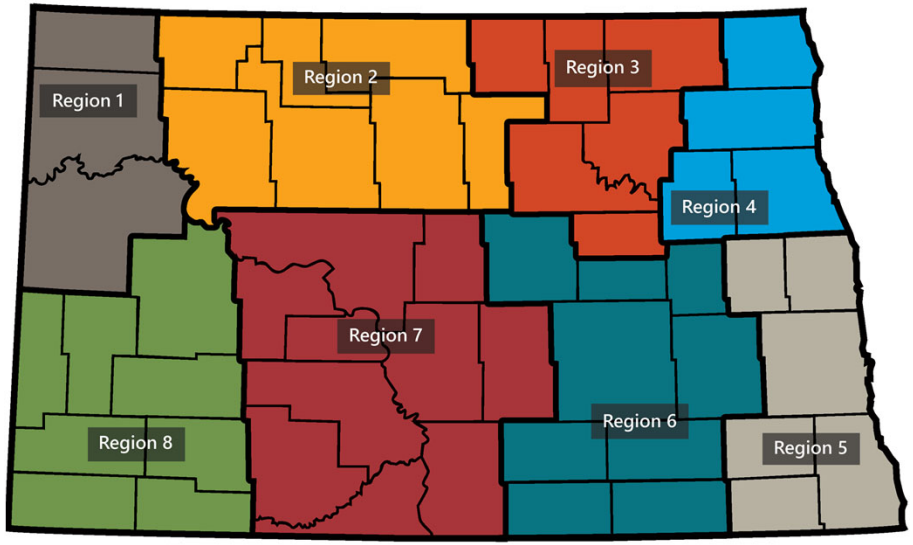
website.nd.gov

ND

# Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program

## ASSISTS COMMUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES IN IMPLEMENTING ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS.

- Funded from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the state's seven Community Action Agencies.
- Funds are managed and distributed by Division of Community Services (DCS).



# Community Action Agency (CAA)

- Emergency Assistance
- Money Management
- Housing Counseling
- Self-sufficiency Services
- Case Management and Outreach
- Referral Services
- Workforce Readiness

ND

# CSGB Funds

## IMPACTED 36,579 LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS

- 13,130 children.
- 6,047 persons with disabilities.
- 4,890 people who lacked health insurance.
- 2,537 individuals who obtained safe & affordable housing.
- 3,873 individuals who improved energy efficiency and/or energy burden reduction in their homes.

ND

# CARES Funding Results

## DCS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE ESG AND CSBG PROGRAMS TO ASSIST WITH THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC.

- CSBG received an additional $4,209,178.50, and from these funds:
  - Community Action Agencies have assisted 4,984 low-income clients in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, all 7 CAA's successfully spent down their allocations.
  - An additional $5,142,580 was received to provide support to the ESG grant.

NORTH Dakota Be Legendary.

# THANK YOU

Division of Community Services
Ben Faul
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Testimony for
**HCR 4001**
**Senate Appropriations Committee**
January 15, 2025

**Good afternoon, Chairman and members of the committee.** My name is Ben Faul, and I serve as the CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) program administrator for the Division of Community Services within the Department of Commerce.

The CSBG program is a federal grant that provides funds to our communities through seven community action agencies. These agencies implement anti-poverty programs that aim to revitalize low-income communities and empower individuals and families to become self-sufficient. We receive funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and distribute it to the agencies through a formula approved by the agencies themselves.

**In 2022 and 2023,** North Dakota's CSBG program supported 36,579 unduplicated individuals. This included:

- 2,537 people who obtained safe and affordable housing,
- 13,130 children (ages 0-17),
- 6,047 people with disabilities,
- 4,890 uninsured individuals, and
- 1,218 veterans through our SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) This was made possible by $3.7 million in funding for 2023, an increase from $3.6 million in 2022.

In addition, our agencies successfully closed out the CSBG CARES Act funds in 2022-2023, spending the remaining balances of the $4.2 million granted in 2020. Numerous client testimonials shared how this funding helped families facing job loss, food insecurity, and caregiving challenges during a difficult time. Community action agencies stepped up to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents, providing stability and relief.

For 2024, CSBG funding increased to $3.8 million. The total number of individuals served is still being compiled but will be included in our annual report, which will be released by the end of March 2025. I wanted to include a few testimonies from our agencies that detail impact the CSBG program has made:

- Ruby (alias). The Senior Companion and Representative Payee programs helped Ruby (alias), a vulnerable senior, regain financial stability and secure access to food, healthcare, and other basic needs after relocating to North Dakota with no local support.

- Sam (alias). The Helping Hands program assisted Sam, a cancer patient in rural North Dakota, with critical home improvements, including accessible steps and a ramp for safe entry to his home.
- A client facing eviction and financial strain due to a long commute received critical support through CAP. Gas vouchers, groceries, and vehicle repairs helped them maintain their living situation and meet basic needs. The client also applied for housing closer to Grand Forks to reduce commuting costs, demonstrating a commitment to long-term stability. This agencies' assistance played a vital role in stabilizing their situation and empowering them to build a more sustainable future.

**As we move into 2025 and beyond,** our agencies continue to respond to community needs. Our state association, CAPND, is leading the rollout of a rental assistance program, called HOME ARP, with full support from the state CSBG office. This program directly addresses the findings of our 2023 statewide needs assessment, which identified rental assistance as the top priority across all regions. While the program offers more resources, it targets a smaller, more focused group of individuals, providing goal-oriented, personalized support to help them transition into stable housing. This initiative will strengthen communities and enhance individuals' ability to achieve self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this update on the CSBG program and its impact on North Dakota and its importance to our residents. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.

NORTH Dakota | Commerce
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Testimony for
**HCR 4001**
**Senate Appropriations Committee**
January 15, 2025

***Stats:***

From 2023

- Total unduplicated number of individuals served: 18,752
- FNPI 4b: Number of individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing | 1,312 of 1,255 target
- FNPI 4h: Number of individuals who improved energy efficiency and/or energy burden reduction in their homes | 2,106
- Children aged 0-17: 6,815
- Persons with disabilities: 3,109
- Persons without insurance: 2,607
- Veterans: 620

From 2022

- Total unduplicated numbers of individuals served: 17,827
- FNPI 4b: Number of individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing | 1,225
- FNPI 4h: Number of individuals who improved energy efficiency and/or energy burden reduction in their homes | 1,767
- Children aged 0-17: 6,315
- Persons with disabilities: 2,938
- Persons without insurance: 2,283
- Veterans: 598

#33423

# 2023 North Dakota LOW INCOME COMMUNITY NEEDS

Helping People. Changing Lives. community Action PARTNERSHIP
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Assessed by CAPND and NDSU, September 2023**

## KEY FINDINGS

**1st Priority Need**

# Rental Assistance

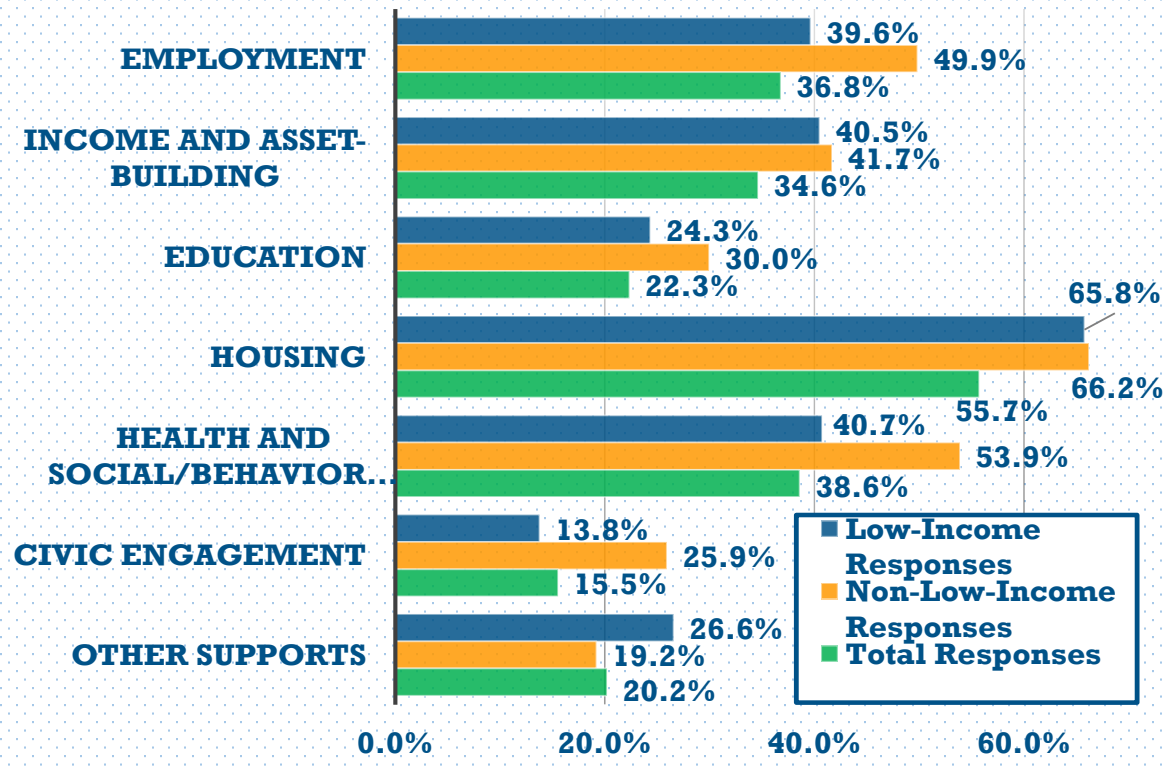
**3,227** Total Survey Responses

- **1,701** Low-Incomes
- **1,015** Non-Low-Incomes
- **511** Others (roles cannot be identified)

"***Rental Assistance***" is still the 1st priority need of people experiencing poverty across the state under the category of "***Housing***".

The 1st priority need for the non-low-income respondents is "***Mental Health Service***".

## STATEWIDE OVERALL NEEDS




## TOP STATEWIDE SPECIFIC NEEDS

**Low-Incomes**

- **Rental Assistance** - Housing
- **Food** - Other Needs
- **Dental Insurance/Affordable Dental** - Health and Social/Behavior Development

**Non-Low-Incomes**

- **Mental Health Service** – Health and Social/Behavior Development
- **Recreational Activities** – Civic Engagement and Community Involvement
- **Safe neighborhoods, sidewalks, parks** - Civic Engagement and Community Involvement

**Overall Community (Low-Income & Non-Low-Income)**

- **Rental Assistance** - Housing
- **Food** - Other Needs
- **Dental Insurance/Affordable Dental** - Health and Social/Behavior Development

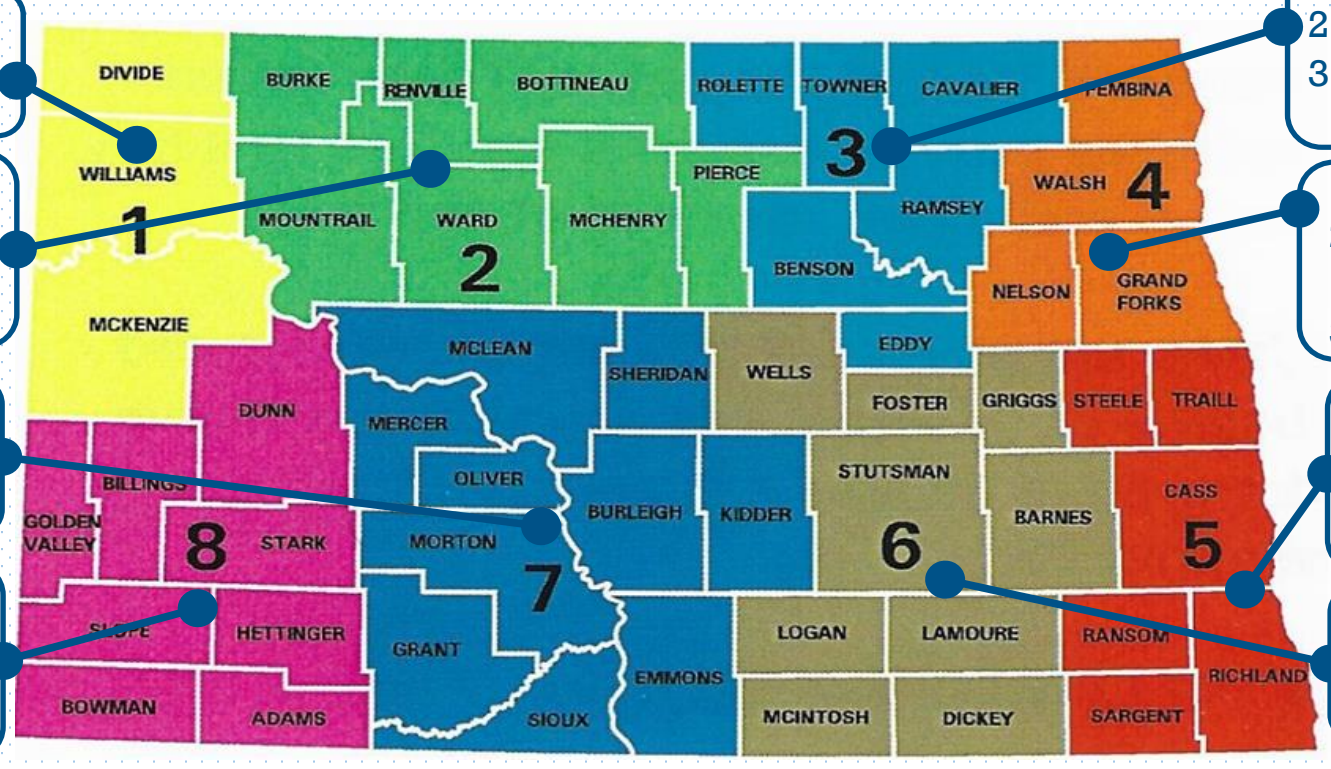
## TOP REGIONAL OVERALL NEEDS FOR LOW-INCOMES

1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Income and Asset-Building

1. Housing
2. Income and Asset-Building
3. Health and Social/Behavior Development

1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Income and Asset-Building

1. Housing
2. Health and Social/Behavior Development
3. Income and Asset-Building




1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Health and Social/Behavior Development

1. Housing
2. Health and Social/Behavior Development
3. Other Supports

1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Income and Asset-Building

1. Housing
2. Income and Asset–Building
3. Health and Social/Behavior Development

1. Housing
2. Income and Asset-Building
3. Employment

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


This project was supported by the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota (CAPND) and completed by a research team at North Dakota State University (NDSU).



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# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SCR 4001
1/22/2025

A Concurrent Resolution Authorizing the Budget Section of the Legislative Management to Hold the Required Legislative Hearings on State Plans for the Receipt and Expenditure of New or Revised Block Grants Passed by Congress.

8:32 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Block Grants
- Committee Updates

8:33 a.m. Levi Kinnischtzke, Legislative Council Senior Fiscal Analyst, testified in neutral and submitted testimony #30704.

8:37 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

8:37 a.m. Senator Erberle moved that the information, including summaries, minutes, and testimony received during the community services block grant hearing, be provided to the legislative leadership and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and upon request to other interested persons to help them analyze the portion of the Department of Commerce's budget request involving the community services block grant revenues and that copies of such information be kept in the Senate Appropriations Committee files for future references and submitted testimony #30703.

8:38 a.m. Senator Wanzek seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| Senators | Vote |
|---|---|
| Senator Brad Bekkedahl | Y |
| Senator Robert Erbele | Y |
| Senator Randy A. Burckhard | Y |
| Senator Sean Cleary | Y |
| Senator Cole Conley | Y |
| Senator Kyle Davison | Y |
| Senator Dick Dever | Y |
| Senator Michael Dwyer | Y |
| Senator Jeffery J. Magrum | Y |
| Senator Tim Mathern | Y |
| Senator Scott Meyer | Y |

| | |
|---|---|
| Senator Donald Schaible | Y |
| Senator Jonathan Sickler | Y |
| Senator Ronald Sorvaag | Y |
| Senator Paul J. Thomas | Y |
| Senator Terry M. Wanzek | Y |

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

8:40 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl discussed updates for the committee.

8:46 a.m. Senator Wanzek moved a Do Pass.

8:46 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| Senators | Vote |
|---|---|
| Senator Brad Bekkedahl | Y |
| Senator Robert Erbele | Y |
| Senator Randy A. Burckhard | Y |
| Senator Sean Cleary | Y |
| Senator Cole Conley | Y |
| Senator Kyle Davison | Y |
| Senator Dick Dever | Y |
| Senator Michael Dwyer | Y |
| Senator Jeffery J. Magrum | Y |
| Senator Tim Mathern | Y |
| Senator Scott Meyer | Y |
| Senator Donald Schaible | Y |
| Senator Jonathan Sickler | Y |
| Senator Ronald Sorvaag | Y |
| Senator Paul J. Thomas | Y |
| Senator Terry M. Wanzek | Y |

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

Senator Wanzek will carry the bill.

8:47 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl adjourned the hearing.

*Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk*

# REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
## SCR 4001 (25.3021.01000)

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4001 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff

# SENATE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE
# FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT HEARING

## FOR SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

**It was moved by _____, seconded by _____, and carried that the information, including summaries, minutes, and testimony received during the community services block grant hearing, be provided to the legislative leadership and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and upon request to other interested persons to help them analyze the portion of the Department of Commerce's budget request involving the community services block grant revenues and that copies of such information be kept in the Senate Appropriations Committee files for future reference.**

*(1/22/2024)*

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4001

## LEGISLATIVE HEARING FOR FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Levi Kinnischtzke and I am a fiscal analyst at the Legislative Council. I am here to present on **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4001**. I am neither for nor against the resolution, and am here only to provide information regarding the resolution.

In August 2024, the Legislative Council contacted state agencies that receive federal funds to determine which agencies receive block grants that require legislative hearings. The results, which were presented to the Legislative Management's Budget Section in September 2024, revealed that only one block grant required a public hearing to be held by the Legislative Assembly - the community services block grant administered by the Department of Commerce Division of Community Services.

The community services block grant provides funds for services and activities for the poor, particularly the elderly, homeless individuals, and migrants. Services include housing, health, nutritious food, and self-sufficiency.

The Department of Commerce anticipates receiving approximately $7 million of federal funds through the community services block grant program during the 2025-27 biennium, the same as estimated to be received during the 2023-25 biennium.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4001 authorizes the Budget Section of the Legislative Management to hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditure of new or revised block grants passed by Congress. This would run through September of 2027. This resolution is the same as what has been passed for at least the last 9 bienniums.

If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer those at this time.

**2025 HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

**SCR 4001**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**
Room JW327C, State Capitol

SCR 4001
3/20/2025

A concurrent resolution authorizing the Budget Section of the Legislative Management to hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditure of new or revised block grants passed by Congress.

9:15 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

**Discussion Topics:**

- Committee Action

9:15 a.m. Chairman Beltz introduced and read the bill.

9:18 a.m. Representative Dobervich moved Do Pass

9:18 a.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

9:22 a.m. Representative Dobervich amended her motion to rerefer to appropriations

9:22 a.m. Representative Hauck seconded.

9:23 a.m. Representative Dobervich withdrew the motion.

9:24 a.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**
Room JW327C, State Capitol

SCR 4001
3/20/2025

A concurrent resolution authorizing the Budget Section of the Legislative Management to hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditure of new or revised block grants passed by Congress.

2:24 p.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

**Discussion Topics:**

- 1984 Grant program
- Budget Section Hearings

2:24 p.m. Brady A. Larson, Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor, ND Legislative Council, available to answer questions.

2:28 p.m. Representative Dobervich moved Do Pass.

2:28 p.m. Representative Holle seconded the motion.

| Representatives | Vote |
|---|---|
| Representative Mike Beltz | Y |
| Representative Dori Hauck | AB |
| Representative Karen A. Anderson | Y |
| Representative Gretchen Dobervich | Y |
| Representative Donna Henderson | Y |
| Representative Dawson Holle | Y |
| Representative Jeff Hoverson | Y |
| Representative Dwight Kiefert | Y |
| Representative Dennis Nehring | Y |
| Representative SuAnn Olson | Y |
| Representative Nico Rios | Y |
| Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck | Y |
| Representative Bill Tveit | Y |
| Representative Daniel R. Vollmer | Y |

Motion passed 13-0-1

2:28 p.m. Representative Nehring will carry the bill.

2:28 p.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

# REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
## SCR 4001 (25.3021.01000)

**Agriculture Committee (Rep. Beltz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4001 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.