

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2046
Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
March 18, 2021

Sheila Schreiner
Employee Representative Committee President
City of Grand Forks, ND

My name is Sheila Schreiner, President of Grand Forks City Employee Representatives Committee, representing roughly 520 Grand Forks City Employee who are working within your city. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on SB 2046.

The NDPERS defined benefit pension plan is an excellent retirement plan, assisting in recruiting and retention as well as maintaining high morale. The defined benefit retirement plan was top preference when the defined contribution plan was closed in 2007. Please make note, the old defined contribution plan is still being city (employer) funded today, thirteen years later.

The reduction of the defined benefit unfunded liability is important in order to sustain the long-term strategy. We agree with NDPERS, the plan's contributions need to increase employer and employee contributions. The amended employer/employee of ½% increase contribution, while it is a small increase, is just not enough. A sounder method is for incremental higher increases (1% Employer and 1% Employee) as originally proposed in SB 2046 with re-evaluation every two years with the Legislative session and an actuarial report.

The Grand Forks Employee Representatives Committee would prefer a counter action of increasing the employer and employee contribution to 1% each as originally submitted in SB 2046.

The Grand Forks Employee Representatives Committee requests your consideration for modification of a 1% increase for each employer and employee contribution on SB 2046 introduced by the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee at the request of NDPERS.

Cordially,

Sheila Schreiner
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