

Chairman Lefor and members of the Industry, Business, and Labor committee:

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give testimony on HB 1341.

My name is Kristin Rubbelke and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers North Dakota Chapter (NASW-ND). I am submitting written testimony regarding NASW-ND's support of HB 1341.

NASW-ND supports HB 1341 to increase the minimum wage in the state of North Dakota. North Dakota's current minimum wage is egregiously low and not conducive to creating a sustainable, healthy living environment for a low-wage workers. Bumping the minimum wage up to 15 dollars an hour will decrease poverty in North Dakota while increasing access to healthy foods, sustainable housing and other necessities that are conducive to the physical and mental wellness of North Dakota residents.

NASW Code of Ethics which asserts that "social workers should advocate for living conditions conducive to the fulfillment of basic human needs" (Code 6.01). HB 1341 will help the residents of North Dakota create stable, sustainable environments for themselves and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this written testimony. We kindly ask for your support of HB 1341.

Sincerely,



Kristin Rubbelke, LBSW, MSW
Executive Director
NASW-ND