



Testimony on HB 1325
Presented to the Finance and Taxation Committee
Prepared by Tina Fisk, West Fargo City Administrator
Monday, March 22, 2021

1 Chairperson Bell and members of the Finance and Taxation Standing
2 Committee: I would like to take this opportunity to submit a suggestion for HB 1325,
3 which would ask legislative management to study the impact of property tax relief
4 policies on retired individuals.

5 After evaluating the bill, I believe it was intended to identify property tax relief for
6 populations who would benefit the most. However, a qualification using age and not
7 need is likely to exclude a large portion of the population in need of relief, as well as
8 potentially provide a tax benefit to a portion of the population who may not need it.

9 According to the 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates from the
10 U.S. Census Bureau, 3,084 residents in West Fargo are at least 65 and 3% of them are
11 living below poverty level. However, 6.5% of the 22,499 residents ages 18 to 64 are
12 below poverty level. As you can see, age is not an inclusive demographic to determine
13 the need for property tax relief. It is also important to remember that North Dakota's
14 Homestead Property Tax Credit does cater to the people in 65 and over age group
15 who actually need assistance.

16 For these reasons, I request HB 1325 be amended to the study of property tax
17 relief based on need and not age.