

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Senate Human Services Committee**

January 12, 2021

By: Rhonda Allery, Mountain Lakes Human Service Zone Director

**RE: Senate Bill 2089-Relating to financing of welfare programs and housing stabilization supports and rental assistance, relating to financing of welfare programs and housing stabilization supports and rental assistance**

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Rhonda Allery, Mountain Lakes Human Service Zone Director. I serve the counties of Benson, Towner, Ramsey and Rolette, I am a member of the North Dakota Social Service Director Association.

Please consider my testimony in support of SB 2089.

The language cleanup for 50-06-05.1 in the proposed bill makes it clear the goal is to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. Cash assistance for housing stabilization is crucial in providing families with the most fundamental basic need –HOUSING-

Preventing homelessness is a community issue and the language change in the law promoting collaboration across private human service agencies, commerce and housing and finance agencies to address the need for affordable housing makes good sense and replaces old language implying lack of affordable housing is an issue for human services.

Housing for all is an economic development issue, a human issue, and a community issue indicating the quality of life in the community.

This concludes my testimony on SB 2089.

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