

TESTIMONY
Senate Industry Business and Labor Committee SB 2127
January 13, 2021
Senator Kathy Hogan

Chairman Klein and members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan. I represent District 21 the heart of Fargo. This bill recognizes and begins to address the growing crisis many ND families are facing in securing affordable house. Even prior to the Covid Crisis and resulting economic recession, many individuals and families were forced to choose between housing and food, prescriptions and car payments. I strongly support this bill.

In North Dakota, poverty is often invisible, it is present in every area east/west/urban and rural. According to the census bureau, 11% of ND live below the poverty level and in my district almost 50% live below the 200% of Poverty level. This results in people temporarily living with family or friends, moving to emergency shelters, living in their cars and camping in parks. Often time people facing a housing crisis are working but cannot secure enough money for a deposit and first months rent.

Many human service providers including behavioral health providers, child welfare systems, services for persons with disabilities, seniors and people who work with people who the working poor have recognized that without stable housing, all other types of services are very difficult to provide. Attached is a recent survey completed by the ND Community Action Agency on needs by region of current needs.

This bill will help address the low and moderate housing crisis.

Thank you, Chairman Klein, I would be more than willing to answer any questions.