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North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People  
Testimony in support of SB 2127  
Senate IBL Committee

January 13, 2021

Chairman Klein and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People I offer written testimony today in support of SB 2127. The Housing Incentive Fund meets an incredible need for the homeless and chronically homeless in North Dakota. On average, 37 percent of North Dakota's residents or 108,224 individuals and families live in multifamily housing. Annually, 39 percent of all renters, more than 42,000 people, cannot afford to pay their housing costs and are considered to be housing cost-burdened. For individuals who can afford less than 30% of area median income, there is currently just a 2-3% vacancy rate in available affordable housing. Continuing funding for projects that address the needs of homeless individuals in North Dakota, including victims of domestic violence and families, is vital to the well-being not only of the individuals impacted, but also of the communities in which they reside. The NDCHP also supports the dedication of a portion of HIF funding to directly address homeless, including preventative services and barrier mitigation. While the HIF funding has traditionally focused on brick and mortar projects, the supportive services that supplement these housing projects is just as vital to ensuring that homelessness in North Dakota is rare, brief, and a one time experience. We therefore urge this committee to recommend a "do pass" on SB 2127.