

Testimony
House Bill 1004
Senate Appropriations Committee—Human Resources Division
March 9, 2023
Sherry Adams, Southwestern District Health Unit

Good morning, Chairman Dever and members of the Human Resources Division of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Sherry Adams and I am the Executive Officer for Southwestern District Health Unit (SWDHU). My health unit covers the eight counties of the Southwest which includes Adams, Billings, Golden Valley, Bowman, Slope, Dunn, Hettinger and Stark. I am in support of House Bill 1004 which includes an additional \$2,750,000 state aid in the Governor's budget, bringing the local public health state aid total to \$8,000,000.

Local and state governmental public health agencies are recognized nationally as having the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting the public's health. Local public health units serve as the foundation to the public health system as the boots on the ground.

State Aid is our only flexible funding and fills gaps not covered by other funding sources. Southwestern District Health Unit relies on

State Aid Funding for a multitude of services to meet our annual community needs which, in part, is identified in our Community Health Needs Assessments.

I am extremely grateful for this increase which will serve our communities across North Dakota. Thank you for this opportunity to share my comments. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.