



Letter of Support SB 2014

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Chair Monson and members of the House Appropriations Government Operations Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of S.B. 2014, specifically as it relates to funding for homelessness.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. To promote more vibrant, thriving communities and economies, we urge strategic investments into addressing and understanding homelessness across the state. In North Dakota, the number of homeless individuals has increased more than 26% over the past four years. Solutions to this can only be found through private and public collaboration to target root causes and build stronger local communities.

This legislation approaches the issue in a pragmatic and strategic way. We support the following aspects of this bill:

1. **Homelessness Grants:** This appropriation of \$10 million will support communities actively working to address homelessness and empower local leaders and providers to bring bold initiatives to life.
2. **Housing Incentive Fund:** This appropriation of \$25 million will begin to address the root causes of homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing across the state.
3. **Legislative Homelessness Study:** A homelessness study to review data, funding availability, and gather input from homeless program service providers. The results of this study will be used to guide lawmakers as they craft solutions to address this issue statewide.

The strategic allocations made under this bill support long-term investments to address homelessness across the state. With these investments, communities across North Dakota will become more vibrant and prosperous – effectively addressing the unique housing and homelessness challenges. I respectfully urge the committee to give Senate Bill 2014 a **DO PASS** recommendation and support these critical aspects of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce