

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Christy Miller, and I serve as the Executive Director of Souris Valley United Way in Minot. I want to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2014, particularly the inclusion of both the North Dakota Homeless Grant and the Housing Incentive Fund within the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency.

Through my work with Souris Valley United Way and as a member of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, I witness firsthand the critical and growing need for these funds. The lack of adequate funding for housing and homeless initiatives has contributed to an increasingly dire situation for many individuals and families across our state. This reality is further underscored by the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency's updated housing study, which highlights the urgent challenges we face.

Minot is in a particularly vulnerable position. Our community lacks a low-barrier shelter capable of serving all those in need, leaving many without a safe place to turn. Compounding this issue, the upcoming Sentinel project at Minot Air Force Base will bring an influx of workers to our region, further straining an already limited housing supply. Without immediate investment, we risk exacerbating homelessness and housing instability in our community and beyond.

To effectively address these challenges, we need \$10 million allocated to the North Dakota Homeless Grant and at least \$50 million for the Housing Incentive Fund. These resources would enable agencies across the state to implement a coordinated, strategic response tailored to each household's unique needs.

The solution to homelessness is straightforward: housing and support services. Without these crucial funds, agencies cannot continue the essential work of providing stability and hope to those who need it most. We must act now to ensure that every North Dakotan has access to safe and secure housing.

The time for action is now. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Christy Miller  
Executive Director, Souris Valley United Way  
Member, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People