

**Meier, Lisa M.**

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**From:** Flohr, David A. <dflohr@nd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 11:07 AM  
**To:** Meier, Lisa M.; Pyle, Brandy L.  
**Subject:** SB 2014

Hi Representatives Meier and Pyle,

We have follow-up thoughts from our meeting on Friday regarding the Rent Stabilization program (RS).

I had thrown out the option of keeping it at HHS and Representative Meier stated she was not sure if it should be transferred to our agency and should stay with HHS. HHS does provide other economic assistance programs – LIHEAP, TANF, SNAP – and RS seems like it fits with HHS. In the past the programs that moved over to us from BND and Commerce fit more with our mission – financing housing production, mortgage operations, monitoring housing programs.

The reasons this is being asked to be transferred to us is the frustration homeless service providers and some of your fellow legislators have with HHS on how RS was delivered. Landlords were alienated from cooperating with the program due to long delays getting rent payments, non-responsiveness from DHS to concerns, and unwillingness to seriously consider suggestions. Landlords not cooperating hampered the efforts of the service providers and their clients in being able to find homes to rent. HHS has 40 employees on their “housing team” – one full time director and 39 temporary employees. That is a function of how they are currently running the program as I discussed during the meeting and because of that the number is not surprising. There are reasons they are set up this way and they are best discussed with HHS.

The providers would like to see the funds be allocated to them and let them deal with the local landlords and their clients (we concur with this). For areas of the state not as well covered by homeless service providers the statewide Community Action network could be utilized. We have already talked with them about this and they are on board (I can provide more detail on this if you like).

Section 18 of SB 2014 states legislative management shall consider a study of homelessness in the 2025-26 interim. Could RS be placed back into the HHS budget and then have this legislative management study incorporate determining the proper home for RS (if funded in the future), the method the funds should be disbursed, etc.? The current home of the ND Homeless Grant and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant that we currently administer should also be part of the study. Can you dictate to legislative management that the study is undertaken?

We just want RS to work, make sense where it is located, and be successful.

Dave

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