



# Community Action Program Region VII, Inc.

**March 11, 2025**

**RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1504  
Submitted by Andrea Werner, Executive Director**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee:

On behalf of Community Action Program Region VII, Inc., I am writing in strong support of HB1504, which will direct 50% of the gaming tax paid by Veteran Service Organizations to the Post War Trust Fund or the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs grant program. This legislation is a critical investment in veteran services, ensuring that those who have served our country have the support needed to achieve housing stability and self-sufficiency.

Community Action Program Region VII, Inc. is one of seven Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in North Dakota, operating programs that help individuals and families overcome poverty and build stable futures. Our agency serves the following counties in Region VII which includes Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux in providing much needed services such as housing assistance, case management, employment support, transportation, and financial education to low-income households—including veterans.

Through our partnership with the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, we provide direct assistance to veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness, helping them secure stable housing, healthcare navigation, and employment resources. In the past year Community Action Region VII has served 51 veteran households through SSVF, and we have witnessed firsthand the growing demand for veteran homelessness services.

We continue to see an increase in the number of veterans coming to our agency for assistance and support. Many of the veterans we assist face significant barriers, including lack of affordable housing, employment instability, mental health challenges, and difficulty accessing VA benefits. Funding remains a challenge in meeting the rising need for veteran services.



*Serving: Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux Counties*  
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HB1504 will provide much-needed resources and is an investment in long-term solutions, it focuses on ensuring that veterans in North Dakota receive the housing and support necessary to thrive and prevent homelessness. I strongly urge you to view this as a chance to create meaningful change in the lives of our veterans.

Thank you again for your time, attention, and dedication to supporting veterans experiencing homelessness in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Werner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Werner, Executive Director  
Community Action Program Region VII, Inc.