



WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO
ND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION
DURING THE 67th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

On March 8, 2021

IN SUPPORT OF

SB 2014

REGARDING

**SECTION 5. APPROPRIATIONS – GENERAL FUND - TRANSFER
TO HOUSING INCENTIVE FUND**

Chairman Vigessa

Vice Chairman Brandenburg

Members of the Appropriations Committee – Government Operations Division

I testify today in support of funding the Housing Incentive Fund but ask that consideration be given as to the amount of funding being proposed. Yes, \$15 million will begin to address some of the need for affordable housing in North Dakota. At this level, however, it will take years to truly make a difference, if at all. **A funding level of \$50 million, as SB 2127 proposed, would certainly provide the opportunity for the needs of the state to truly be addressed. Even an amount of \$25 to \$30 million would go significantly further.**

The need for affordable housing is definitely present and persistent in the State: The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) reports: “Across North Dakota, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.”

Data from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) reports that 17,400 North Dakota ELI Renter Households are Severely Cost Burdened, **paying more than 50% of the household’s income on housing costs**, to include utilities. **This is 65.7% of the of the 26,485 ELI Renter Households!** Statistics developed by the NLIHC estimate a 12,980 unit deficit of Affordable Rental Units for ELI Households. Much, much need.

Thank you in advance for you favorable consideration of additional funding for the Housing Incentive Fund than the \$15 million presently proposed, and Thank You for all you do.



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Respectfully submitted,

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