

Testimony in support of HB 1024
House Appropriations Human Resources Division
Representative Chet Pollert, Chair
February 2, 2015

Good morning, Chairman Pollert and members of the House Appropriations Human Resources Division.

My name is Barbara Frydenlund and I am the Administrator/Director of Nursing for Rolette County Public Health District. I am here to request the continuation of tobacco prevention funding at the level recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

The current funding that is dedicated to state and local tobacco prevention programs has allowed North Dakota to lead the nation in tobacco prevention efforts. Our health district has received tobacco prevention funding since Rolette County Public Health District was established in 2001. This funding has allowed us to provide tobacco prevention efforts, following CDC Best Practice, to the residents of Rolette County. The tobacco prevention program continues to be one of our primary and most recognized programs.

Rolette County has twice the state average smoking rate. Rolette County Tobacco Prevention staff works alongside the Turtle Mountain Tobacco Prevention Program staff to provide a unified voice with our primary goal of "prevention of the initiation of tobacco use and policy change." The respective tobacco prevention staff members support each other in grass roots efforts such as coalition participation and the implementation of CDC Best Practice methodology. Without the ongoing funding from the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy, limited county finances would not permit the continuation of a tobacco prevention program at the current capacity. The Tobacco Prevention Program has been a conduit to communication and collaboration with Tribal Health. The Tobacco Prevention program has aided Rolette County Public Health to be recognized within our community as a leader in preventative health and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

The goal of Healthy People 2020 is to decrease the adult smoking rate to 12%. With this objective in mind and despite our diligent efforts in tobacco prevention, we continue to have work to do and mountains to climb in achieving this goal. The 2014 County Health Ranking reflects that 36% of Rolette County adults currently smoke.

Continued support for tobacco prevention funding at the recommended CDC level will be greatly appreciated and will allow us to have a positive impact on the health behavior of the residents of Rolette County.

Thank you,

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