

TESTIMONY SUPPORT OF SB 2024

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Chairman Holmberg, and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Susan Kahler, Tobacco Prevention and Control Coordinator at Bismarck Burleigh Public Health Unit (BBPH). I am here to provide testimony and support for SB 2024.

Bismarck Burleigh Public Health Tobacco Prevention and Control Program receives funding from BreatheND to implement the *Saving Lives-Saving Money: ND's Comprehensive State Plan to prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use* based on Center for Disease Control Best Practices. We have been able to accomplish many tobacco/smoke-free policies and ordinances.

BreatheND's coordinated efforts showed great leadership when the ND Smoke-free law passed in 2012. BreatheND supplied our office with resources for the smoke-free law and we were able to go out into the community to educate the public and business owners on the new law. We worked with our local law enforcement to developed a protocol to address complaints of violations. On a regular basis, our office receives calls from our community members about violations. Some are straight forward, smoking within 20 feet from the building or individual smoking e-cigarette inside a building. In other situations, we have requested assistance from BreatheND staff for guidance.

One example is the ND Smoke-free law does not cover inside individual apartments or condo owners, it only covers the common areas. On a routine basis, we have received calls from tenants/owners asking for assistance with adopting a smoke-free policy for the entire building because of the health effects they are experiencing from secondhand smoke. BreatheND worked with the Public Health Law Center to develop model smoke-

free policies for apartment owners to adopt. To address this situation, came the development of "Smoke-Free Housing North Dakota". This program provides resources to tenants and landlords about smoke-free polic. Our Tobacco Prevention and Control program provides technical assistance. So far, 154 buildings and 1,498 units have smoke-free policy in the Bismarck/Burleigh County area.

Please support SB 2024 so that this good work can continue. BreatheND is focused and can help us get this job done for North Dakota. We have made great strides in our community with reducing tobacco use rates and protecting individuals from secondhand smoke.