



September 29, 2020

Honorable Robert Wilke, Jr.
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

RE: Application for approval of a Fisher House at the Fargo VA Medical Center

Dear Secretary Wilke:

Fargo VA Health Care Services (VAHCS) covers one of the largest geographic regions in the United States, encompassing all of North Dakota and 18 counties in our neighboring Minnesota and South Dakota. Nearly 78,000 veterans in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota are served by the Fargo VA Medical Center, including 50,842 North Dakota veterans. Veterans in North Dakota may travel up to 400 miles one way to receive care at the Fargo VA Medical Center and approximately 74 percent of North Dakota veterans are traveling from highly rural areas.

Currently, there exist no Fisher Houses to serve military and veteran families in North Dakota or South Dakota. The construction of a Fisher House at the Fargo VA Medical Center will support countless families with no cost accommodations as their family members seek critical care. In a region where veterans and their families may travel a great distance and from rural areas, the added support of a Fisher House can be invaluable for families.

We fully support the construction and operation of a Fisher House at the Fargo VA Medical Center to better serve North Dakota veterans and all veterans in the VAHCS area.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor