



March 12, 2025

Mayor Bochenski,

Altru is experiencing a transformational year, one that elevates healthcare in Grand Forks. With the grand opening of our new hospital in early 2025, we are redefining what it means to provide exceptional care in our region. Our momentum doesn't stop there—we are growing, innovating, and strengthening our ability to serve this community every day.

As the second largest employer in Grand Forks, we take great pride in supporting more than three thousand families who call this region home. In 2024 alone, we successfully recruited 34 providers, expanding access to specialized care in areas such as Ear, Nose, and Throat, as well as advanced gastroenterology procedures that previously required patients to travel hours for treatment. Notably, about 70 percent of these new providers relocated from outside the area, reinforcing Grand Forks as a destination for top-tier medical talent.

However, as we continue to attract skilled professionals to our city, we frequently hear a common concern—affordable housing. Many of our recruits are surprised by the speed at which homes sell and find that rental and purchase prices are higher than anticipated and may not have the space to accommodate families. Most of our new providers choose to rent initially, making a strong and sustainable rental market essential to our continued success in recruitment and retention.

At Altru, we want to ensure Grand Forks remains an attractive place to live and work. A continued focus on ensuring a strong housing market is a pivotal part of a vibrant community. As we look ahead, we remain committed to bringing high-quality healthcare professionals to this region. Any steps taken to increase the availability of housing and rental properties will directly support our mission and contribute to the growth and vitality of Grand Forks. With that, we pledge our support to SB 2225 and encourage others to do the same.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working together to ensure that Grand Forks continues to thrive as a place where families, businesses, and healthcare professionals can put down roots and flourish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Forkel', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Forkel, CEO
Altru Health System