

Hello Mr. Chairman and members of the human services committee,

My name is Representative Claire Cory and I represent District 42 in Grand Forks. My district encompasses the University of North Dakota campus and a section of the north end of Grand Forks. I rise today to provide testimony in support of HB 1348.

I will start by telling you a little bit of background on the topic. In mid July of this year, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) began a study to find COVID-19 in wastewater. The first couple cities tested were Grand Forks, Bismarck, and Fargo. In order to cover the costs of this study Cares Act Funds were used. (including a **\$50,000** grant for NDSU.) Eventually the State of North Dakota began testing more and more cities (up to 21) in hopes of monitoring COVID 19 trends throughout communities.

HB 1348s goal is to regulate surveillance of wastewater.

The original purpose I wanted to introduce this bill was to protect the privacy of students at public universities and to create a conversation on the invasion of privacy and effects of having your wastewater tested for COVID 19.

- Are the rights of personal privacy more important than a government's right to violate that privacy under a guise of "public health"?
- In regards to testing on campuses, students at public universities should still have rights and protections.
- There are no "warrants" or any regulations of WHEN and WHERE your wastewater will be tested.
- There aren't any protections in place to keep data private (I.e. Public mandates to quarantine a dorm, city block, apartment complex)
- There is no plan in place to limit what the data is used for.

So at the very least I hope to raise conversation and awareness.

Please vote for a do pass.