

House Representatives

John A. Meissner

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Support for HB3007

I strongly support the bill mentioned above. I think it is vital for securing the freedom and security of the citizens of North Dakota. It is the right of an individual to make health care decisions based on what is best for them and the people around them and I strongly believe the citizens of North Dakota are capable and able to make healthy and smart decisions about their lives. The government should not be dictating to its people what they can and cannot do when it comes to living their every day lives. We need to end this state of emergency, COVID-19 is here to stay, we have learned to live with it, to take the necessary precautions. This state of emergency is nothing more than a government power grab. One that I and many I have talked to are sick of. There is no need for this emergency order. I have seen businesses suffer, friends lose their jobs, coworkers children go into spirals of depression, and much more. The extreme measures we as a state have taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 have caused great damage to our people. It is a common expression in healthcare that the treatment should not be worse than the disease. I believe we are at that point. These lockdowns and mandates have crushed the souls of many people in my home state. It needs to stop. You are our elected officials, the ones we trust to make right decisions regarding policy that puts the people first, but over the last year I, along with many other people I have talked to, have had that trust wane. The people see what is going on throughout our country and they see the blatant infringement of the people's rights and they want it to stop. Please vote to end this needless emergency order.

I am a nurse at Altru hospital in Grand Forks, I have seen the effects of COVID-19 firsthand. I have also seen that we know how to handle it. We have great therapeutic treatments; we now have a supposedly effective vaccine; Altru is not close to surge capacity. At the time of writing this letter there are 13 COVID-19 patients in Altru hospital. Even during the height of the hospitalizations in October-November Altru was not truly at "capacity." Altru is a 270 bed Hospital but there was only enough staff to cover 130 beds during the height of the infection rates. That is due to relieving of travel nurses and other staff in March of 2020. Poor hospital management is what led to the hospital being at "surge capacity." .

Thank you for reading my testimony and for the service you all do for the people.