

Dear Chairman Klemin and Members of
the House Judiciary Committee,

I hope the day is finding you well. My name
is Charles Nixon. I am a resident of Fargo,
North Dakota and am writing to urge you
to issue a "do pass" on HB 1443.

This legislation holds special significance
to me as a Black man. I did not grow up
here in ND, but the state I did grow up in
had robust hate crime laws on the books
from well before I was politically aware.
Since I became more aware of the laws
affecting my day to day life growing up in
my first home, it was always a given to me
that there was some mechanism to legally
protect me and others in marginalized
communities from abuse at the hands of
others, as well as mechanisms to make
law enforcement especially aware of these

abuses. To find out that my new home of North Dakota does not have legal protections of the same caliber in place was surprising.

Laws to hold perpetrators of such heinous crimes specifically accountable should be on the books in any US State. In an ideal world they wouldn't be needed anywhere, but the reality is that the world we live in is full of hateful people, and every vulnerable group should have a legal deterrent protecting them from harm, no matter their creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, disability, national origin, ancestry, or race. Our world and State are also only growing more diverse, and a requirement that law enforcement know how to deal with these types of crimes quickly and decisively is a must. HB 1443 accomplishes all of this.

North Dakota needs this legislation, especially since it is only one of five states to not have these full protections in place. Again, I urge you to pass HB 1443, for the good of our whole community here in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time,

Charles I Nixon, Jr.

