



LIFFRIG FAMILY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

2-7-2021

HB 1443

Dear Honored Legislators:

I am writing in support of HB 1443, Hate and Bias Crime. As a serving member of the ND Parole Board, ND Pardon Advisory Board, and the North Dakota Minority Justice Implementation Committee under the Honorable Anthony Swain Benson (Northeast Judicial District) this bill is of particular interest to me.

According to the most recent annual report by The North Dakota Minority Justice Implementation Committee, we are tasked with implementing the recommendations from the Race and Bias Commission regarding racial and ethnic bias in the courts. Based upon a two-year study, the Commission collected testimony and statistical evidence to examine bias in as many areas of the court system as possible. Study areas included access to courts, criminal and juvenile justice, civil courts, the legal profession, court personnel, and public perceptions.

HB 1443 would further support our efforts in providing equity to citizens of all racial/ethnic background in circumstances involving the law. Racial intolerance in the form of bias or harassment is not a true reflection of our North Dakota values and principles. Thus I urge you to support this bill during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Carmelita Lamb-Associate Dean
Liffrig Family School of Education and Behavioral Sciences