

North Dakota House Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing on March 8, 2021
HCR 3045

Chairman Klemin and Committee Members,

Thank you for your time and dedication in reviewing HCR 3045 to study the prevalence of bias-motivated crimes committed in North Dakota on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry. I strongly encourage a DO PASS and Yes vote on HCR 3045.

As a local church pastor in Bismarck, ND, I have spoken with numerous people who have experienced discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and ancestry. I list all of the categories mentioned, because I have served individuals who have experienced discrimination in each of these areas in Bismarck. I typically serve individuals and families who have experienced employment, housing, or non-criminal discrimination and do not have as much experience with individuals and families who have been the victims of crimes. However, based on the prevalence of non-criminal discrimination in North Dakota, most of which has gone largely unrecorded by the state of ND, it is reasonable to assume that a significant percentage of crimes committed are bias-motivated. We, as a state, would be well served to know the extent of bias-motivated crimes so that we can directly and most appropriately address the issue. Avoiding or refusing to know the motivations behind crimes prevents our communities from reducing criminal activity to the full extent possible and creating healthier cities and towns.

I strongly request a DO PASS on HCR 3045.

Thank you,
Rev. Gretchen Deeg
Bismarck, ND