

March 30, 2021

RE: Testimony IN FAVOR of HB 1323

Dear Committee Members,

As a resident and business owner of this state I am writing this testimony in support of House Bill 1323. In addition to the adoption of this bill, I believe the messaging regarding mask wearing needs to improve. Now that the availability of proper PPE (personal protective equipment) is available to everyone, the messaging should change to the individual responsibility to protect oneself.

Mask wearing is a tool that can be effectively employed, in addition to maintenance of good health, to reduce the chance of complications of respiratory infections. However, I don't believe it is widely understood, even after a year, that cloth masks offer no protection to the wearer and that there is a hierarchy of protection moving up from surgical masks to KN95's to N95's. It should not be a crime to believe the option to wear a mask is for the benefit of the wearer. I don't believe it is right to force people to wear a mask to protect others.

I encourage you to vote **DO PASS on HB 1323**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Lundstrom
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Fargo, ND