

Testimony on HB 1323
to the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
by the North Dakota State Association of City and County Health Officials
April 1, 2021

Good morning Chairman Burckhard and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Mary Korsmo and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota State Association of City and County Health Officials (NDSACCHO). On behalf of the 28 local public health units (lphus), I offer this testimony in opposition to HB 1323.

As you are keenly aware, there has been much discussion and controversy concerning mask mandates relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mask mandates have been/are just one piece of several mitigation strategies used to combat this highly contagious virus. Public health strives to PREVENT disease and illness and PROMOTE healthy and safe behaviors. Public health PROTECTS and is asked to respond to multiple threats using science proven effective measures depending on the nature of the threat. Public health relies on proven methods to reduce disease and improve the health of our citizens. By limiting the ability to implement public health measures and safety protocols, such as a mask mandate, public health efforts are significantly impaired putting individuals and the public at potential increased risk.

Please continue to help local public health and the communities they serve by allowing them access to all available options. We urge a DO NOT PASS on HB 1323.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.