

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Member,

My name is Alida Arnegard and I reside in District 26. I would like to urge you to please make an amendment to the first part of HB 1136. The wording in this bill, although it is modeled directly after the Religious Freedom Reformation Act language (RFRA) which is already used at the Federal level, the term substantially burden is quite vague and it could be open to loose interpretation in future religious freedom court cases in our state.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a state or local government may not (OMIT the word SUBSTANTIALLY) burden a persons exercise of religion unless.

I stand for religious freedom and have given this great thought. Clarification of the wording here will make it easier to apply this bill to religious freedom cases in ND in the future. This small change will make a huge impact on the usefulness of HB 1136.

Thank you for your tireless service on behalf of our great state. I would deeply appreciate your consideration regarding this important clarification and I would request that you would render a Do Pass to HB 1136 with the omission of the word substantially.

Thank you so much,

Alida Arnegard