

February 6, 2025
House Political Subdivisions Committee
HB 1307
Representative Donald W. Longmuir, Chair

Key Points in Opposition to HB 1307

- **Local decision-making is critical to community health.** Every community has unique health challenges, and local leaders are best positioned to develop tailored solutions that reflect their residents' needs.
- **HB 1307 removes flexibility and limits local protections.** This bill would prevent cities and counties from enacting policies that go beyond state law, restricting their ability to respond effectively to local health and safety concerns.

Testimony in Opposition to 1307

Chairman Longmuir and Members of the House Political Subdivision Committee:

My name is Renae Moch and I serve as the Public Health Director for Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health in the City of Bismarck. I am here to oppose House Bill 1307, which would limit the ability of cities and counties to enact stronger public health protections tailored to their community needs.

Every community has unique public health needs, and local leaders are in the best position to make informed decisions that reflect those needs. Across North Dakota, cities have used their home rule authority to adopt policies that promote health and safety in ways that complement state law. House Bill 1307 would reduce our ability to address health and safety concerns that directly impact the people who live, work, and visit our city.

Bismarck, like many communities, has adopted local policies that strengthen public health protections, including ordinances on health and sanitation and smoke-free public spaces. Maintaining local decision-making authority ensures that communities can continue addressing health challenges in ways that best serve their residents.

Why Local Decision-Making Matters

- Local leaders understand the specific challenges their communities face.
- Home rule authority allows communities to act in the best interests of their residents.
- Tailored policies help cities and counties effectively address local public health concerns.

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose House Bill 1307. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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