



March 16, 2025
Kelsey Majeske, Publisher
RE: In Favor HB 1398

Chairman Barta and Members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee,

My name is Kelsey Majeske, and I am the Publisher of 10 community newspapers across North Dakota. These newspapers serve small, rural communities throughout the state. For decades, we have published the Insurance Abstracts in all of our newspapers, and this service is a key part of our commitment to informing our readers. As a community newspaper, we pride ourselves on our mission to keep the public informed, and the publication of these abstracts is an essential aspect of that mission. Each year, these abstracts provide valuable information to our readers, sparking questions and engagement within the community.

Under the changes made by the insurance commissioner, none of my newspapers would be included in the proposal to publish these abstracts in only one newspaper per judicial district. As a result, more than 10,000 subscribers across North Dakota would no longer receive this important information in their local newspapers, which have traditionally been tasked with publishing public notices.

While I strongly believe that these notices should continue to be distributed in every newspaper, ensuring that all communities have access to this information as they have in the past, there is also a significant financial impact to consider. The loss of publishing the Insurance Abstracts would create a considerable financial strain on our newspapers. As mentioned, each of my newspapers operates independently in small rural communities, employing local staff who work diligently to provide the information our readers rely on. Although publishing these abstracts comes at no cost to the state, the lost revenue for each of our small-town newspapers could range from \$6,000 to \$20,000 annually. In an industry already burdened by increasing postal and print costs, this revenue loss could be devastating to the viability of these businesses.

I respectfully urge you to consider the importance of maintaining the historical practice of publishing the Insurance Abstracts in all community newspapers, ensuring that our rural communities continue to have access to this crucial information. I encourage you to vote in favor of HB 1398 to preserve the opportunity for local newspapers to serve their communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Majeske
Publisher

**MCLEAN COUNTY INDEPENDENT | LEADER NEWS | CENTRAL MCLEAN NEWS JOURNAL |
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