



NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

2901 Twin City Dr. Suite 201
Mandan, North Dakota 58554
(701) 663-8821

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January 27, 2021

To the Honorable Mike Lefor and Member Representatives of the House Industry,
Business and Labor Committee

RE: House Bill 1433; Compensation Benefits for Essential Workers

The North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council is in support of HB 1433. Including COVID-19 as a compensable injury commits to making essential workers whole due to an injury resulted from the exposure to and contraction in the performance of their duties.

The impacts of the virus have been felt all over North Dakota. The State and municipalities have taken remarkable steps to mitigate the spread of the virus in the workplace through varying strategies e.g., PPE, plexiglass dividers, deep-cleaning, work-from-home, etc. However, there was still a significant number of workers deemed essential that required their presence in the workplace. These workers provided a service that was of absolute necessity for day-to-day existence of society. Many essential workers put their own health and well-being on-the-line while doing their jobs.

It is not without consequence that when considering the long-lasting effects of COVID-19, the full understanding of such an event has yet to be realized. HB 1433 provides a way to those workers deemed essential a methodology to returning what they have lost due to the extraordinary events of the recent past. As with all workers who have been adversely affected while in the duties of their jobs, this legislation seeks to improve livelihoods to the best possible outcome.

We respectfully urge a do pass recommendation for HB 1433.

With Kindest Regards, I am

Jason Ehlert
President
Lobbyist No. 347
Jason@ndbtu.org