



**North Dakota AFL-CIO**  
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**Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President  
In Support of HB 1433  
January 27, 2021**

Chairperson Lefor and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO in support of House Bill 1433.

Unions have always been at the forefront of advocating for workplace safety, and it should be no surprise to this committee that we support ensuring that Workers Safety Insurance also covers essential workers who have contracted COVID-19 while on the job. Not only should WSI cover these essential worker's claims, we believe that it should be presumed that these workers contracted COVID-19 while at work. This only makes sense based on what we know about how COVID-19 is transmitted, being a combination of exposure and time, both factors that are very prevalent in the workplaces under question in this bill.

We have talked at length about how much we appreciate these essential workers for over a year now. We at the North Dakota AFL-CIO believe that it's time for us to put our words of appreciation into action that lends a hand to these invaluable workers whose labor has provided us all with the essentials to get us through this difficult time. Offering them some respite and security when they get sick while on the job on the frontlines of the pandemic is one of the least of things we could do for these working people and their families.

I recommend a "Do Pass" recommendation on House Bill 1433.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Landis Larson  
North Dakota AFL-CIO President