

TO: Chairman Weisz, Vice Chairwoman Rohr,  
and members of the ND House Human Services Committee,

I write you today as a Lutheran clergy in North Dakota who supports fairness and freedom. No one should live in fear of threats, harassment, or physical harm that is motivated by prejudice. HB 1443, Identify and Report Bias Based Crimes, is a solution for a very real issue in our state.

HB 1443 would provide peace officer standards and training when dealing with bias crimes. The bill would protect victims of a bias-motivated crime in aggravated assault, harassment, and criminal mischief. HB 1443 protects ALL community members no matter their race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry.

As a gay man, I know what it is like to be targeted because of my sexual orientation. Hate-based crimes have increased significantly in recent years and we as citizens and faithful individuals need to take a stand against all types of violence, threats and crimes that target people of color and other marginalized individuals.

I believe God calls us “do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8) This bill will do much to create a safer and just society for all people in North Dakota.

I ask you to issue a “Do Pass” for HB 1443.

Sincerely,

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