

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ashley Eagle, and I am a resident of Grand Forks, ND. I urge you to issue a "do pass" on HB1443.

HB 1443 protects ALL North Dakotans no matter their race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry.

As North Dakota becomes increasingly diverse, the need for legislation against crimes based on hate and fear of the perceived "other" grows more and more pressing. This legislation would hold perpetrators of bias crime accountable for their actions, while also providing training for law enforcement and data collection.

The strength of North Dakota's law enforcement is directly linked to their ability to serve and protect – as is their motto. This means protecting all members of the community. To do so properly, it is important that officers are trained in the best practices to do so.

Furthermore, it is plainly unacceptable that ND is one of only five states without this type of legislation. North Dakota is a much kinder and friendlier place than that statistic would have you believe – it is time to prove that and mend such a glaring oversight by passing this legislation. Thank you for your time.