

March 16, 2021
House Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 2181

I am David Clemens, Senator from District 16, West Fargo and Fargo. I am here today to introduce Senate Bill 2181.

Senate Bill 2181 deals with a person's exercise of religion and would amend the Century Code in Section 23-01-05 and Section 37-17.1-05. Section 23 addresses issues relating to disease control measures deemed necessary to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Section 37 is when the governor is responsible to minimize or avert the adverse effects of a disaster or emergency.

Both Section 23 and Section 37 are amended with the same language. Section 23 is addressed in Sec 1, page 1 of the bill and Section 37 is addressed in Sec 2, page 4 of the bill.

The changes basically say that a person's exercise of religion may not be substantially burdened and is the least restrictive means in accordance with the government interest and may not treat religious conduct more restrictive than any secular conduct.

I appreciate your support of SB2181 and am open for any questions.