

February 4, 2021

House Political Subdivisions Committee

**RE: HB 1323 TESTIMONY**

Dear Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee

**I am writing to you in support of HB 1323.** I agree that there should be limitations on the requirements to wear a mask.

Mask wearing has become such a hot political issue and the science on the efficacy of mask wearing is not settled. There is no proof that mask wearing reduces the risk of viral transmission – a tiny microscopic virus being stopped by a mask that has openings many times larger than the virus is not logical. There are studies that show the exact opposite to be true.

And there are other issues that are well known, such as what type of mask? Is someone wearing a mask properly? Is there a greater risk because someone is touching their face more frequently? Are there health impacts from mask wearing that are a greater risk to the individual wearing the mask than the supposed benefit from mask wearing? The science is not settled.

If a business wants to make mask wearing mandatory, that is the business's choice and I support that choice. But local and state political leaders should not force citizens to mandatorily wear a mask. Too many state and local leaders, have chosen to mandate mask wearing out of political expediency and pressure. They have been abusing their powers and using this pandemic as an excuse to restrict our freedoms.

I urge you to support freedom of individual choice in North Dakota. This is one of the many reasons why we live in this great state, because of the freedoms we enjoy.

**I support a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1323.**



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