

Testimony of Pat Ward in Opposition to HB 1257

Good morning Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee.

My name is Pat Ward, and I am an attorney with the Zuger Kirmis & Smith law firm here in Bismarck. I am here today representing State Farm.

State Farm opposes HB 1257. HB 1257 exempts individuals over eighteen years of age from the requirement that they must wear safety belts when driving or occupying a motor vehicle.

State Farm encourages the use of seat belts for drivers and occupants of motor vehicles. This is because the proven data shows that seat belts save lives. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belt usage among drivers and front-seat passengers reduces the risk of death and serious injury by approximately 50%.

For these reasons, we urge a “**do not pass**” recommendation on HB 1257.

Thank you Chairman Ruby and committee members.