

North Dakota House Bill 1152
Senate Industry, Business & Labor Committee
Do Not Pass Testimony

March 8, 2021

Dear Chair Klein, Vice-Chair Larsen and members of the Committee,

My name is Daphne Hall and I'm a volunteer advocate with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN).

Tobacco is a killer and I'm asking you to fight back efforts to weaken our smoke-free indoor air law. As a cancer survivor myself, one of my main goals now is to do what I can to reduce the burden of cancer on our society as a whole. We know too well the risks that smoking and exposure to second hand smoke pose in the development of certain cancers.

The people of North Dakota overwhelmingly voted to pass the legislation in 2012. It wasn't even close. Every county in the state voted in favor. A proposal to change the smoke-free law to allow cigar smoking in some workplaces is a huge step backwards.

Smoking doesn't only affect those people who smoke. It affects the people around them including employees who do not have the option to leave. Every year, exposure to secondhand smoke causes more than 42,000 deaths in the United States, including over 7,000 lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers.

I vehemently oppose this bill and ask that you vote for a Do Not Pass recommendation.

A strong law covers all people including workers. Why in the world would we want to go backward? Everyone has the right to breathe smoke-free air and that includes those in hospitality venues, work environments, and other public places. A strong law prohibits all smoking including cigar use in all workplaces whether they sell cigars or not.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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