

**Testimony HB 1175**  
**Senate Industry Business & Labor Committee**  
**March 10, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Industry, Business, & Labor Committee, my name is Russ Hanson of the Associated General Contractors of North Dakota. AGC of ND is a 400-member association which has been in existence since 1951. Our membership consists of all aspects of commercial construction - highway contractors, vertical contractors, civil/heavy, specialty contractors, subcontractors as well as material and equipment suppliers.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony today and would like to offer our association's support of HB 1175 and other efforts to provide COVID Liability protection.

We hoped Congress would implement this on the federal level to create a national standard. Obviously, that did not occur, so the individual states are deliberating legislation. It is my understanding HB 1175 is similar to legislation being considered in a number of states.

Construction, like so many other businesses, worked hard to stay in operation during this pandemic and we were successful. Construction never took a major pause in 2020 nor thus far in 2021. With that, businesses need protection from frivolous civil liability lawsuits when we, amongst others, have acted in good faith and followed applicable COVID 19 regulations/orders to keep employees safe while continuing to provide the essential service our industry provides. We believe HB 1175 provides that.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on HB 1175 and we request your consideration for a due pass recommendation. If you have any questions, I am a regular in the Capitol hallways and happy to have a subsequent conversation.