



# CITY OF FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief David B. Zibolski

105 25th Street North, Fargo, North Dakota 58102  
Office: 701-241-1400 Fax: 701-297-7789  
www.fargopolice.com

March 31, 2021  
North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senator Diane Larson, Chair  
RE: HB 1248

Dear Senator Larson and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Zibolski and I am the City of Fargo Chief of Police. I appear before you today in strong opposition to HB1248, Section 1.

The inclusion of "dangerous weapon" to the existing language describing what a state or political subdivision may not prohibit during a declared emergency is unnecessary and dangerous for our officers and community members. The City of Fargo Police Department is committed to safeguarding all persons and property while ensuring the Constitutional Right of peaceful protest. As we have all learned from the events of 2020 nationally and most notably in Fargo on May 30, 2020, some individuals are committed not to peaceful protest, but to riotous criminal behavior with an utter disregard for the safety of others. They often use peaceful protesters as camouflage for their true intentions. There is no need to further arm these individuals by allowing them to carry a variety of dangerous weapons—to include swords, nunchaku, daggers, crossbows, and other items that are intended only to cause injury to others. The ability for law enforcement to identify persons armed with dangerous weapons and mitigate that risk is critical to ensuring public safety.

Truly peaceful protesters have no need of these items and by prohibiting law enforcement from taking action against those who are so armed during such an emergency event, you are creating an extremely dangerous situation for law enforcement, protesters individually and as groups, as well as the general public. I urge you to give this bill a "do not pass" vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

David B. Zibolski  
Chief of Police  
City of Fargo  
701-241-1401  
dzibolski@fargond.gov