

Written testimony to:

67th Legislative Assembly
House Political Subdivisions Committee

HB 1323

Chairman Representative J. Dockter and Committee Members,

I urge you to please give a DO PASS recommendation on HB1323. I don't believe masks are effective in stopping the spread of Covid, and even if they were, to mandate their use is a criminal violation of our constitutionally protected rights. As the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ explains on its website (<https://www.justice.gov/crt/deprivation-rights-under-color-law>):

"Section 242 of Title 18 makes it a crime for a person acting under color of any law to willfully deprive a person of a right or privilege protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

For the purpose of Section 242, acts under "color of law" include acts not only done by federal, state, or local officials within their lawful authority, but also acts done beyond the bounds of that official's lawful authority, if the acts are done while the official is purporting to or pretending to act in the performance of his/her official duties. Persons acting under color of law within the meaning of this statute include police officers, prisons guards and other law enforcement officials, as well as judges, care providers in public health facilities, and others who are acting as public officials. It is not necessary that the crime be motivated by animus toward the race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin of the victim.

The offense is punishable by a range of imprisonment up to a life term, or the death penalty, depending upon the circumstances of the crime, and the resulting injury, if any.

TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTION 242

Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States, ... shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and if bodily injury results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both, or may be sentenced to death."

For some, masking is no big deal. For Americans like me who value their constitutionally guaranteed autonomy, mandated masking has been nothing short of a psychological attack perpetrated by a handful of unelected medical professionals who have decided their credentials override our freedom.

Thank you,
Erin Bussian
Cummings, ND