

I AM IN FAVOR OF HB 1323  
March 31, 2021

HB 1323

Chairman Senator Burckhard & Committee Members,

My name is Sheila Glaser, a Restaurant Owner and North Dakota Citizen. I live 3 miles outside the city limits of Bismarck, in District 7. I am affiliated with several restaurants throughout the state of North Dakota. I am providing my written testimony in favor of HB 1323 to support the protection of the Constitutional Rights of the Citizens of ND.

My Points:

1. The mask mandate of 2020-2021 and any future mandates would be a definite infringement on my Constitutional Rights as a citizen of this great state. Not only did the past mask mandate infringe on my personal rights, but I was forced to impose such restrictions onto the Constitutional Rights of our Employees and the Customers willing to venture out and eat in our establishments. I believe the mask mandate deterred customers from visiting our restaurants during an already suppressed time which created irreparable damage. The mask mandate has and will negatively impact the #1 Small Business Employer in North Dakota, the hospitality industry.
2. I have been in the restaurant industry for more than 35 years. During this time, it is a known fact to deter or block the transfer of illnesses – You Properly Wash Your Hands – Often & Correctly! Along with, staying home if you are ill, covering coughs and sneezes, good personal hygiene, do not touch eyes, nose, or mouth. This has been on the CDC sight for years. The restaurant industry has been focused on this safety protection plan for decades.

Our restaurants remained open during the 6 weeks of no inside dining. To protect our employees, we focused on these internal safety procedures. We did not tell our employees they could not wear a mask, but they were not required to wear a mask. No one chose to wear a mask. Our employees were working side by side (more than 50 employees per

location) and interacting with customers (picking up orders and delivering to households). We had NO illnesses during this time! We trusted our employees to manage their personal life while they were not at work and we managed the work environment.

In fact, we have had minimal illness (including COVID) during the entire last year – I believe because we focused on what works, the internal safety procedures which we have used in the restaurant industry for as long as I can remember. STAY SMART/STAY SAFE – WASH YOUR HANDS!

3. Last, I have spent this last year trying not to be angry over what has transpired. I am angry that I voted for an individual I believed was representing my best interests. Instead, I have come to realize this individual, failed to trust me. Obviously, the executive orders rolled out because I and the Citizens of North Dakota were not smart enough nor compassionate enough to make these important decisions on our own.

My hopes are you will instill faith in the Citizens of North Dakota (that each of you represent). I am not against wearing a mask when I choose to wear one, nor will I demand others should not get to wear a mask. This action is a threat to the Constitutional Rights of each and every citizen of this great state and this great country. Trust the Citizens of North Dakota because they trust you to do so.

Sincerely,  
Sheila Glaser