

Dear Chairman Clemens and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

I am a resident of West Fargo, ND, an emergency nurse, and the State President of the North Dakota Emergency Nurses Association. I write to you today regarding H.B. 1148 regarding electric bicycles (e-bikes).

As an emergency nurse, I care deeply about the safety of our community. While I support the overall intent of this legislation, I would request that you consider amending this bill to include some simple limitations to ensure that North Dakota citizens, particularly children in our state, remain safe while using e-bikes:

- **Age Limitation for E-Bike Use:** It is my understanding that the current language of this bill would allow children of any age to ride e-bikes, including riding them on roadways as is allowed for traditional bicycles. Much of the discussion in the hearings on this bill have focused on keeping the limitations for e-bikes aligned with limitations for traditional bicycles, and this has been predicated on the idea that traditional bicycles can reach similar or faster speeds. However, no mention was made that a 10-year-old, who would typically be unable to reach such speeds on a traditional bicycle, could ride as fast as 28mph on an e-bike, placing them at increased risk of losing control or being injured. I strongly urge you to add a minimum age limitation to this bill.
- **Helmet Requirement for E-Bike Use:** At least 25 states have helmet requirements for e-bike riders, according to the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL). Helmets have been proven to save lives in accidents involving traditional bicycles, motorized bicycles, and motorcycles. Testimony on this bill mentioned that e-bikes are becoming more popular with adolescents, and according to the CDC, among all recreational sports, bicycle injuries are the leading cause of ED visits for children and adolescents. Approximately 33% of those visits are for a bicycle-related head injury. While those statistics are specific to traditional bicycles, I'm sure you can see their relevance to the e-bike discussion. Legislative requirements for minors to wear helmets while using e-bikes would increase compliance with helmet use, decrease injury from e-bike collisions, and have the potential to save a child's life. I hope you consider the addition of a helmet requirement to this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue. Injury prevention and the safety of North Dakota's children are important to me and other emergency nurses throughout the state, and I hope you keep this top-of-mind as you consider H.B. 1148.

Sincerely,



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