

Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President
In Support of HB 1460
January 30, 2023

Chairperson Louser and members of House Industry, Business and Labor:

My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO in support of House Bill 1460.

The North Dakota AFL-CIO has supported the numerous iterations of paid family leave that have been heard before this body in sessions past. We feel that HB 1460 takes into consideration prior concerns about paid family leave legislation and ensures a fair, basic framework, where workers and employers both can access this very necessary tool.

Working people need paid family leave to meet the needs of their families when unexpected care-taking needs arise. In 2023, North Dakota working families should not have to choose between caring for their loved ones and maintaining a basic quality of life. This is a moral question. Do we support families? This is one of the best ways we can possibly support our working families.

Employers should have access to offering this important benefit to retain a high quality workforce and decrease recruiting and training costs. We will be competing for workforce with states that offer this benefit. If we are serious about workforce recruitment and retention, we need paid family and medical leave.

This bill is a fair proposal, widely supported by North Dakota working families, that would help tens of thousands of North Dakota families through some of the toughest times of their lives, and deserves serious consideration.

The North Dakota AFL-CIO supports House Bill 1460.