



House Judiciary
Chairperson and Committee Members

HB 1537 Support

The Downtown Business Association of Bismarck represents over 200 members with 9,000 employees in North Dakota's second largest employment district.

May 10, 2022 our Board of Directors voted to support a local proposal to approve a Hate Crime Ordinance. The Bismarck City Commission at that time indicated that this was something that should be done at the state level. Please accept this testimony as our continued support for this concept.

The Downtowners Association represents nearly 9,000 employees in a variety of businesses citywide, and for the last decade a barrier to business growth has been the lack of available workers. An ordinance or law such as this brings us inline with competing communities' policies and assists Bismarck in talent recruitment and retention efforts. We see this bill as a continuation of efforts to attract workforce to our state and communities. Any local ordinance in Bismarck would seek the advice of law enforcement and the court system to ensure all parties are on the same page.

We encourage your DO PASS vote on HB 1537.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Herzog".

Kate Herzog, COO
Chief Operating Officer
Downtown Business Association of Bismarck

President
Downtown Bismarck Community Foundation