

Chairman Klemin and Committee Members,

I strongly urge a Do Pass on HB1537. This is an important bill which will enhance the safety of our citizens and help train peace officers to appropriately respond to hate crimes in the state. A few years ago, a friend of mine was the victim of a hate crime in Bismarck. The harassment he received took longer to resolve than necessary, because there was not an ordinance in place for handling the harassment and threats he received. I urge you to take the next step in advancing the wellbeing of all the citizens of North Dakota by passing HB1537.

Thank you,

Rev. Gretchen Deeg